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## NAB's first round

Two years ago the University Grants Committee's decision to distribute the much reduced university grant in a highly selective way provoked an enormous row, the reverberations of which have not yet died away. This autumn the National Advisory Body's attempt to reorder our endemically chaotic system of polytechnics and colleges will certainly provoke as big and as fierce a row.

However, there are important differences that need to be emphasized before misleading parallelism takes over completely. The first, and most important, is that in the case of the NAB the row will take place before any irrevocable decisions have been taken, while with the UGC it was the other way round. Second, the whole process will be open, uncomfortably so for the NAB in the short run but beneficially so for the polytechnics and colleges in the long run.

Third, the actual cuts that will have to be incorporated in the NAB planning exercise are rather less than those so suddenly and arbitrarily imposed on the universities two and a half years ago. Fourth, this is the first occasion on which any attempt has been made to subject the polytechnics and colleges to national planning, while the UGC in 1981 could depend on a growing tradition of *dirigisme* stretching back into the 1960s.

Fifth, the polytechnics and colleges make up a much more diverse sector of higher education than the universities. Polytechnics and the rest, full-time and part, initial and continuing education, there are all kinds of difficult balances that the NAB must try to strike. Sixth, the NAB cannot fall back on some broad consensus about priorities, in contrast again with the UGC which could ultimately rely on bedrock agreement about university values after the blizzard, and occasionally hypocritical, protests had died down.

So the NAB this autumn is attempting a job that is both easier, because the cuts are less, and more difficult, because it has much less to go on, than the task undertaken by the UGC two years ago. At any rate it is very different. It is, of course, much too early to make even a provisional judgment on the NAB's attempt, although the dim outline of what its officers are proposing can already be glimpsed. The student targets, and tentative pool allocations based on these targets, which have been notified to institutions this week are simply proposals by the NAB's secretariat. They have not been endorsed by the board, let alone the committee.

This is the beginning of the NAB

game, not the end. We are at the start of a process of negotiation that very well may be bad-tempered but ultimately will be productive. There is time for mistakes to be corrected, for second thoughts, for appeals/protests to be heard before the final decisions have to be taken. Not only will all the players in the game have been educated to think hard and coherently about both principles and priorities for the non-university sector, but the detailed proposals will almost certainly have been modified and improved.

So it would be wrong to comment too soon and too categorically about what the NAB is trying to do. But three remarks can be justified. The first is that unit costs, however sophisticated, will never be enough. A sensible policy for the polytechnics and colleges will require qualitative judgments in other words, both subjectivity and flexibility. The ceaseless sophistication of the calculation of unit costs may produce more sensitive answers, but not always more sensible ones.

This is not an argument for applying UGC-style informed prejudice to planning the polytechnics and colleges. But it is an argument for maintaining a margin for discretion (and discrimination), and not expecting all the decisions to be taken by some black box constructed by the Technical and Data Group. This is already informally recognized by the now well established practice of mitigating the full effects of applying a strict regime of unit costs, but this practice in turn provokes the counter argument that it shows a lack of confidence in the technical work of those who are refining unit cost measurement in polytechnics and colleges.

If unit costs are seen as a necessary but not a sufficient condition for effective planning, there are two important implications. The first is that those who argue that the problems of higher education planning can be solved at the stroke of a pen, or by second-year economics students or graduates on the first year of a taught master's course, are pursuing a mirage. The second is that the NAB may have to find an alternative to the rather formal and edgy relationship it has established with the validating bodies this summer if it really wants to get at the quality of individual courses.

It is still far too early for anyone to take up hard-and-fast positions of either support for or opposition to what the NAB is proposing. All that can safely be said is that the NAB process is a start to clear thinking about essential questions. Without it there would be nothing but myopic and expedient muddle.

The second, highly provisional remark is that the first outline of the NAB plan implies a relative shift away

from polytechnics and towards other institutions. Part of the reason no doubt is to curb the chaotic expansion of the past two years and protect the unit of the resource in the former; some polytechnics and their directors have clearly been taken at their word. Obviously it would have been undesirable to tolerate an uncontrolled erosion of standards in the polytechnics when the universities have embarked on an opposite policy.

But part of the reason must be that this shift is a distorted result of the NAB's determination to put more emphasis on part-time (and sub-degree) courses at the expense of full-time university-level courses. In strategic terms this is almost certainly the correct decision; but the tactics are likely to be very tricky. First, it amounts to a reversal of the strong trend to concentrate and segregate higher from other forms of post-school education, the process that produced the polytechnics with all their virtues and strengths. Second, it is one thing to switch the policy, it is another to change the practice.

The third remark is that the rules of the NAB's planning game need to be clarified. Mr John Bevan, the secretary of the NAB, points out in a letter on the previous page that the polytechnics have been allocated more students in the provisional plan than they proposed in their "bids", and that the other colleges have been allocated fewer. This comparison alludes over the more relevant one that despite this the polytechnic market share is to be cut, but let that pass.

Two practical points, however, do need to be emphasized. First, is it fair to describe answers to a hypothetical question about the likely response to cuts, reluctantly given in many cases as the refusal to state priorities clearly indicated, as "bids"? Already a revealing shuffle in the NAB's terminology planning seems to have occurred. Second, we have no proper means of judging the comparative responsibility of different "bids". It may be right to believe that we should provide for more part-time and sub-degree students, but is it a reasonable belief particularly in the context of a stubbornly persistent industrial depression?

It is still far too early for anyone to take up hard-and-fast positions of either support for or opposition to what the NAB is proposing. All that can safely be said is that the NAB process is a start to clear thinking about essential questions. Without it there would be nothing but myopic and expedient muddle.

## History belongs to no one

In history, to oversimplify is always tempting but, rarely, admissible. For every occasion on which it sharpens truth through its dramatic effect, there are ten, or a hundred, occasions on which truth is distorted by dogma. So, although it is very tempting to gloss history itself as the next battle ground for our increasingly polarized society, it is a temptation that should be firmly resisted - for history's sake.

The temptation to set up some superficial dichotomy is obvious enough. On the right Sir Keith Joseph, who recently remarked about history in schools that one of its aims should be to "understand the development of shared values which are a distinctive feature of British society and culture", is aided and abetted by Lord (Hugh) Thomas. On the left the historians of the left loosely grouped round *History Workshop*, which hopes this autumn to establish a Centre for Social History in Oxford that aims to bring aid and comfort to a discipline and profession beleaguered by cuts and philistinism.

But it is obviously unfair to imply that the two sides are about to engage in a sharply focused ideological war for the hearts and minds of sixth formers and undergraduates. Sir Keith Joseph thinks a good deal more than most. Secretar-

ies of State, but on balance we should be grateful for that because the silence of his predecessors did not always indicate an absence of thought or an unwillingness to act from prejudice. Lord Thomas is far too good a historian not to know that British history is populated by Lollards, Levellers, and Luddites as well as by kings and statesmen.

In any case the *History Workshop* group has broader and more permanent ambitions for its new centre than simply a short sharp stab with the now "patriotic" history of the Josephs and Thomases, even if this were a fair way to stigmatize the intentions of the latter. Their main target is not an abrasive counter-ideology to their own, however powerful its supposed sponsors, but a numbing philistinism that is the enemy of all liberal studies. Their fear is that the present attack on higher education is a commodity that must be justified in the most narrowly instrumental terms. Sir Keith may even share the same fear.

In the long run his obvious clash between the new "patriotic" history that seeks to emphasize the glory and distinctiveness of the British experiment and the now rather middle-aged

"radical" history with its preoccupations in popular experience, cultural diversity within Britain, and the world beyond Europe may be much less significant than the less dramatic debate about the survival of history (and English, and many other humanities disciplines) as a subject of liberal study.

Of course, the two questions are connected. Sir Keith and his supporters may be seeking to sustain history as a suitable instrument for civic cultivation by trying to ensure that it projects an interpretation of the British experience that is expedient to our present leaders rather than faithful to the historical record. *History Workshop* may be trying to do the same thing, but by entirely contrary means, by substituting the new history of ordinary people for the old history of rulers. Professional historians may approve the latter more than the former but even it has its dangers. Interpretations of our past are bound to become embroiled in arguments about what we fall into the connected belief that history is simply a quarry for missiles to be used in contemporary quarrels. History belongs to no one. If it does, it ceases to be history.

Laurie Taylor



Morning Oh, hello.  
Lovely to see you again. Really lovely.  
Oh... yes. And... nice to see you.  
Good summer? I do hope so.  
Yes. Very good. Thank you.  
Where'd you get to? Anywhere exciting?  
Well... erm...  
No, do go on. I'd love to hear about it.  
Really?  
Very very much.  
Well, since you ask, for four weeks we had this absolutely amazing farmhouse in Tuscany.

That sounds idyllic.  
Oh it was. Stuck right out in the country, you know, but only twenty miles from Lucca.  
What more could you ask?  
Quite.  
I mean, not too crowded, but near enough to the main centres.  
Yes, exactly. And with its own wonderful little vegetable garden. Big fat purple aubergines, and of course, zucchini... courgettes, you know.  
My absolute favourites. Especially when lightly fried in proper Italian olive oil. Mmmmm. You sound as though you really struck lucky. I suppose we did.  
Any photographs?  
I could bring some in tomorrow if you're really interested.  
Very. We could go through them slowly over lunch.  
Right.  
And then after Italy did you manage to get a few more days' relaxation before getting back to the grindstone?  
Yes we did actually. Grabbed a fortnight in the Lakes.  
What would be nicer? And a chance for some walking?  
Yes. Even a bit of climbing. Nothing too serious. Langdale Pikes. That sort of thing.  
But jolly adventurous all the same. And, my word, don't you look well on it? Positively glowing. Does that go all over?  
Oh yes. Look.  
My word.  
And my back's even browner. There. And even further down. It can't be true.  
There.  
Gosh. Like a native.  
But now that have you been up to Italy? Greece? France? Or just out stamping ground of yours. Where?  
I know? Corsica?  
Not quite.  
Where then? Do tell me.  
Actually, I stayed at home and wrote a little book on Recent Advances in Linguistic Theory. You did?  
Yes indeed.  
But you never.  
Quite so. Well, I think that's gone and set down to me. Just one little thing.  
What's that?  
I'd pull up your trousers if I were you. First years can be so conventional these days.

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## NAB plan faces stormy passage

by John O'Leary and Patricia Santinelli

Major changes will be demanded in the National Advisory Body's plan for a redistribution of polytechnic and college places when its members are brought into the debate next month. But the objections will not necessarily affect the fate of the six colleges earmarked for closure or merger. The list includes Nonington, Hertfordshire and West Midlands colleges of higher education and Fleetwood Nautical College.

Another closure will be one of the inner London art schools. The NAB secretariat preference is for Rose Bruford to close, but the Inner London Education Authority is in the throes of its own review of higher education and is expected to make its own proposals.

It is likely to ask for a revision of its total allocation for the art colleges. Hertfordshire College is expected to merge with Hatfield Polytechnic. West Midlands is left with initial teacher education courses not included in the exercise but is judged not to be viable after cuts in its diversified programme of degrees.

The colleges concerned all expect to launch vigorous campaigns for survival and can expect the support of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education on the NAB board. But the main political battle will be over the proposed new funding system which underpins the plan and over the feasibility of switching numbers to part-time courses.

In addition, there is widespread concern about the NAB's declared policy of basing the allocation of places

on the response of institutions to a possible 10 per cent funding cut. Polytechnic directors are objecting to the characterization of their responses as "bids" and Dr Edwin Kerr, chief officer of the Council for National Academic Awards, also expressed doubts about their treatment.

Some members of the board, including officials from the Department of Education and Science, will question the feasibility of meeting the increased targets for part-time courses, which show a 7 per cent rise. And there will also be questions raised about the effects of the policy of switching provision away from the south-east in the light of the concentration of polytechnics there.

The new funding system, which abolishes further funding is designed to take account of special costs in particular institutions and substitutes a new



set of programme weightings, is the most likely victim of any backlash to the plan. It will encounter opposition on the committee of the NAB as well as at the board because of the way it diverts funds from the polytechnics to the colleges.

It would be the second successive

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## Lecturers fight loss of tenure

Professor Randolph Quirk, vice chancellor of London University, has told his fellow vice chancellors that the merged Royal Holloway and Bedford College will have a redundancy clause in its statutes.

Lecturers are enraged by the statement which is in a long letter to the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals on London's reorganization plans.

The question remains open on what the new statutes and charter for the new college will say on tenure. The academic councils of the two colleges decided unanimously not to insert a redundancy clause. But then a joint working party proposed that there should be a redundancy clause for new staff who were not professors or readers.

The newly drawn up draft statutes say that subject to the University of London's regulations on readers and professors, the council can remove staff if it finds it necessary to discontinue an department or reduce the number of staff attached to it. But these drafts have not been accepted yet by either college.

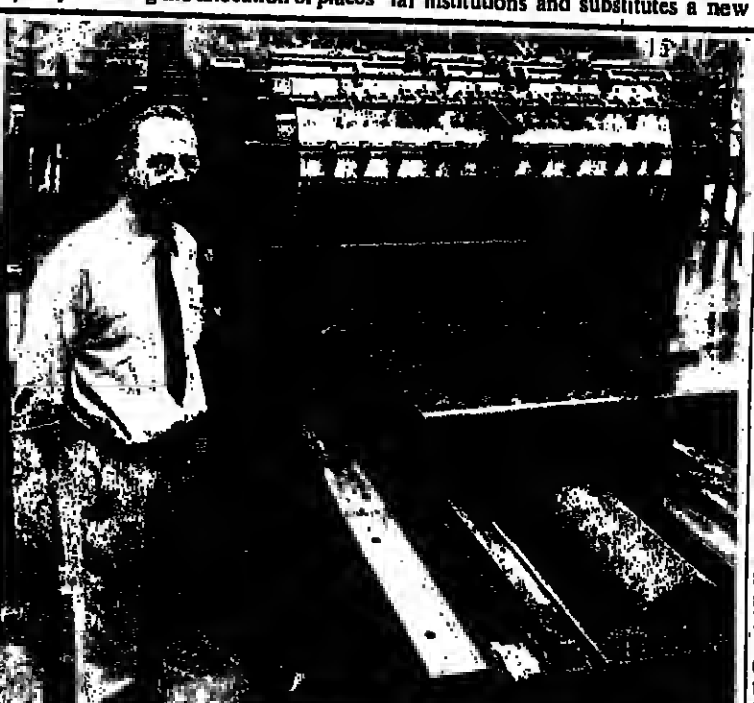
Dr Geoffrey Aidsman, president of the Royal Holloway Association of University Teachers, and chair of the London AUT, has already told his members that if the draft statutes were not modified to remove the redundancy clause then they should frustrate the Bill's passage into law.

London will set up a working party this term to discuss college answers to questions put to them on tenure by Professor Quirk.

The University Grants Committee will also discuss London at its Oxford retreat later this month. Tenure will be examined by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals when it meets this month.

A working party at York University has also recommended that "compelling reasons of financial exigency" should be a reason for dismissal.

Meanwhile the merger is having an effect on admissions. Applications are down at Bedford College because many students think the college is closing. In some subjects applications are down by 10-12 per cent and a large number of small intake they are down by half.



When Mr Geoff Goddard (above) joined the OUP 27 years ago he was supervising 60 letterpress machines at the firm's headquarters in Walton Street. The new litho system has resulted in 40 print workers being made redundant. Mr Goddard, aged 52, has also opted to leave the firm.

## Double boost for biotechnology from home and abroad

by David Dickson and Paul Flather

Biotechnology research received a double boost this week with separate announcements for a five-year British programme worth up to £1.4m and confirmation in Paris of the creation of an international network linking institutions engaged in research and training in the field.

The British programme will be funded by up to seven companies each putting up about £100,000, matched by grants from the Department of Trade and Industry as part of its long-term commitment to promoting biotechnology in industry.

The programme will be handled by the Institute for Biotechnological Studies formed after collaboration since 1982 between the Polytechnic of Central London, the University of Kent and

University College, London. The aim is to investigate generic problems associated with the extended use of biocatalysts under controlled conditions which will be of vital use to companies in several different areas of biotechnology. The hope is that companies will benefit from the whole research programme while providing a fraction of the overall cost.

So far four companies, Glaxo Group Research, May and Baker, Shell Research and Unilever, have joined the programme and there will be a six-month period during which up to three other companies could also join.

Professor Alan Bull of Kent, one of the institute's co-directors, said a firm five-year programme would allow researchers to approach the work with definite hopes of making considerable progress. "We would hope to have a

fairly complete jigsaw of cellular metabolism at the end."

The other co-directors are Professor Geoffrey Holt of PCL and Professor Malcolm Lilley of UCL. The institute has already given advice to the Government, industry and commerce and to international bodies.

The international network to be jointly supported by the French and British governments was officially launched in Paris on Monday by the French minister of industry and research M. Laurent Fabius.

The network, initially coordinated by a small secretariat based in Paris, is the first concrete result to emerge from the recommendations of a working group set up last year.

A joint initiative in biotechnology was endorsed by the heads of state of the seven leading industrialized nations when they met in Willemburg, Virginia, at the end of May.

The network will be steered by a committee chaired alternately by France and England. Also represented on the steering committee are Japan and Canada, and the European Community, West Germany and the United States, both of which have expressed caution about international cooperation in a field marked by fierce commercial competition, will attend meetings as observers.

Two main fields will be covered by the network. The first is to establish a network of institutions providing training courses in biotechnology, usually at the postgraduate level, and to act as a central information point about these courses.

The second will be to stimulate joint fundamental research projects between existing or future research institutions.

## Councillors rebel over transfers

by Olga Wojtas  
Scottish Correspondent

Strathclyde regional councillors are defying their officials and opposing Government plans to take over Glasgow College of Technology.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, has said he intends to transfer both Glasgow and Bell colleges of technology to direct Scottish Office Control, following the recommendations of the Scottish Council for Tertiary Education.

A report to councillors from Strathclyde's director of education, said that there was general agreement that degree level work, which is offered by Glasgow College, should be coordinated nationally. Therefore there were no strong grounds for opposing the Secretary of State's decision to make the college a central institution.

But the council's further education sub-committee has rejected the recommendation, saying it believes transfer would jeopardize links the college has established with other regional colleges.

There has already been conflict within Strathclyde, with both councillors and officials opposing the transfer of Bell College, Hamilton, while the principal, has written to Mr Younger saying staff favour the move.

The college council and the Glasgow College of Technology's students' association have rejected the Scottish Secretary's plans. Mr Bob McLean, the chairperson of the Scottish National Union of Students has warned that transferring Glasgow College could endanger more than 350 social science places.

There are hopes of Leith Nautical College, which Mr Younger intends to transfer from central control to Lothian Regional Council, that a decision on its future will be deferred until the end of the year.

Mr Younger was expected to visit the college last week, but his visit was cancelled because of a Privy Council meeting. A new date has been set for December and Dr Alun Watkin, the principal, said it would be "gentlemanly" not to make a decision until then. A Scottish Office official said the decision to transfer the college had already been taken and negotiations would now take place.



## Oxford group gets it together

by Paul Flather

A group of academics based on Oxford University are setting out to redirect economics to the "real problems of the world", away from increasing abstract theorizing, mathematical formulations, and claims of "objective science".

The six economists have formed an editorial board to supervise the publication by the Oxford University Press of a series of new books to be known as the *Library of Political Economy*.

The economists are Keith Griffin, president of Magdalen College, Roger Opie of New College, Andrew Graham of Balliol College, Hugh Streeton, reader in history at the University of Adelaide, Geoff Harcourt of Jesus College, Cambridge and Lester Thurow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The common principles of the new books are that politics and economics necessarily interact; that economic policy cannot be designed in isolation from the history, development, and institutions of the country in question; and that economic theory must be useful and illuminating, rather than simply "rigorous".

The Oxford economists, it will mark an important step in developing a common line of thinking. Largely

because academic appointments are left to individual colleges, Oxford economists have rarely produced "schools" of thought, unlike their counterparts at Cambridge where departments have the major say in appointments.

Cambridge currently boasts the Clare Group, described as SDP-style economists, the Cambridge Economic Policy Group headed by Wynne Godley, the Growth Project Group headed by Sir Richard Stone, and various Keynesian offshoots, one headed by Lord Kaldor and previously the late Joan Robinson, another by Frank Hahn and until he left, Christopher Bliss.

The intellectual origins of the new Oxford group derive from the work of Thomas Balogh, David Worswick and Michael Kalecki, at the Oxford Institute of Economics and Statistics in the 1940s on how the postwar economy would develop.

Some might try to trace the origins back to the days of G. D. H. Cole, but Lord Balogh, an emeritus fellow of Balliol and perhaps Joseph Schumpeter, who taught Balogh in Germany, are the real inspirers. The series was first discussed in the late 1960s, but formalized in the late 1970s.

Lord Balogh's famous notion of the "social contract" in the 1970s epitomized the aims of the group, to focus attention on questions like how the national income is distributed, what the relations are with trade unions, how economic growth is being shared.

"We are opposed to those who take a straight scientific view of the subject," Mr Graham, one of the board, said. "We think economics is more open-ended and that it is important to realize the assumptions involved as well as the predictions of models."

The group is also opposed to the use of highly mechanistic models. For example the perfect competition graphs every economics A level student learns first, just because they are mathematically convenient.

They would immediately dispute recent statements from Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, about teaching the "economic" facts of life. "These economic facts are nothing like as fixed as Sir Keith would like to believe," Mr Graham said.

Among the first books in the series to be published next month will be the *Political Economy of Nationalism* by Dudley Seers of Sussex University, which will set the tone, challenging the orthodoxy of Western and Marxist economics when analysing the role of nationalism.

## Youth scheme is on target, says director

by Patricia Santinelli

The director of the Manpower Services Commission this week denied claims that the new Youth Training Scheme was not on target or that it was a "con".

Mr Geoffrey Holland answered criticisms made on BBC television that there had been a very slow build-up of places on the scheme.

He pointed out that 400,000 training places had now been approved and 250,000 of these were available and 250,000 of these were available or careers offices at the end of August. So far 90,000 entrants had been taken on to the YTS.

"This is the way we planned it," he said. The major entry to YTS is only expected this month, and so far we have had a first class response from everyone involved."

The figures released by Mr Holland are higher than the MSC's official ones which put the number of places approved at 80 per cent. The figure of 90,000 is an estimate based on doubling the number of entrants in July.

Mr Holland also refuted claims that most young people would not get jobs at the end of the scheme. He said that on the basis of the one-in-three placement rate for the Youth Opportunities Programme, a much higher proportion of YTS youngsters would get jobs. Employers would look to those who had been on the scheme as their main recruits.

He was replying to Mr David Ashton, senior lecturer at Leicester University, who said that the youth employment market was being squeezed both in the manufacturing and service sector and would not recover even if the recession ended.

Mr Ashton added that the YTS was not the answer to employment and that what was needed was a separate solution.

tion which would provide jobs. He suggested a policy for youth employment.

Mr Holland told representatives of the Area Manpower Boards that the MSC was not in the business of creating people. "YTS will provide training designed in the 1980s, for the 1980s, for young people who without this type of opportunity would experience great difficulty in getting a job and making a career for themselves. It should be the first choice and not the last resort of school-leavers," he said.

He added that the MSC was not just after places but also after quality. The commission would ensure quality through the already established network of approved managing agents and a central professional group, plus the creation of posts for professional staff on a permanent basis.

● Youthaid, the national pressure group for young unemployed people, has asked the Secretary of State for Employment to guarantee the safety, training and education of young people on the YTS.

Mr Paul Lewis, the new director of Youthaid, has told Mr Norman Tebbit that complaints about the YTS from over the country reflected fear of the education provision would be paid and short of funds, that training was minimal and that safety standards were uncontrolled and poor.

Challenging the government to look at the schemes conforming to its official guidelines, Mr Lewis called for more money for colleges, regular inspection of every scheme and monitoring of health and safety provisions.

Mr Alf Morris, for Manchester (Wythenshawe) has asked Mr Tebbit to allow disabled young people to join the YTS up to the age of 21.

Leader, back p. 10

## Argentine book ban takes universities by surprise

by Olga Wojtas  
Scottish Correspondent

There is increasing disquiet among academics over the Government ban on importing books from Argentina as part of its embargo on trade with the country.

The Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (Sconul) was alerted to the problem six weeks ago by Essex University which had several consignments of books ceased by Customs at Dover.

"An official from Essex, a major centre for Latin American studies, said they had been unaware until told by Customs that import licences were needed for Argentine books, and that no licences were being granted at present. Institutions understood to be affected include St Andrews University, University College London, Portsmouth Polytechnic, the British Library, and the National Library of Scotland."

But Professor Donald Shaw, head of Edinburgh University's department of Hispanic studies, said there were often difficulties in obtaining texts, and universities might not yet know they had been affected by the ban.

Newspapers and periodicals have not been banned and Professor Shaw said it was a "grotesque paradox" that institutions could receive publishers' lists from Argentina but could not buy the books.

"It is also completely absurd that British banks are allowed to participate in a large loan to Argentina while we are not allowed to buy products," he said. It was fundamental for every department of Spanish or Hispanic

studies to teach some Argentine literature and history and it was ridiculous for the Government to support three departments but remove a necessary resource.

Dr Ann Malleson of the National Library of Scotland said books had arrived before, during and after the Falklands crisis, but consignments had been seized in July.

"We do not know and cannot discover what the fate of the books will be," she said. But there were fears that they might be burned.

Mr Anthony Loveday, secretary of Sconul standing committee on national and university libraries, said the committee had written to protest to Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, Lord Gower, Minister for the Arts and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education. Sir Keith and Lord Gower had simply noted the letter, Mr Channon had not yet replied.

"In most cases the books have already been paid for, and for us affecting trade relations with Argentina are affecting our own public expenditure," Mr Loveday said.

Professor Nicholas Round, head of Hispanic studies at Glasgow University, added wryly: "Given the universities' present state, we're not going to restore the Argentine economy or the strength of our book budget."

Academics should be prepared to circumvent the ban by obtaining books through other channels, he said. "This is not an issue where there could be a case against the material concerned. It is not pornography. It is not violent racist."

Benney and which now forms a part of the so-called "university treasure" is later by establishing the L. T. G. Clarke memorial prize.

"Inflation will, in due course, erode the value of the L. T. G. Clarke prize and the lodge will, in time, become a museum."

"I hope the questioners at council will not attempt to sour relations between the university and the lodge members who comprise staff, past and present."

## Society aims to challenge unilateralists

by Paul Flather

More than 50 academics are to meet at an inaugural conference next week to establish a society which will aim to put the case against unilateral nuclear disarmament in universities and polytechnics around the country.

Supporters of the society, provisionally named the Academic Council for Peace and Freedom, believe that the case for multilateral disarmament in its various forms has not been effectively presented in British academic circles.

The conference in Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, next Wednesday, has been organized by Dr Roger Scruton, reader in philosophy at Birkbeck College, London, and Professor Regan, professor of politics at Nottingham University.

"We are aiming to raise the level of debate in universities and polytechnics," Professor Regan said. "We feel that up to the present it has been one-sided and simplistic. We are not at all sure the unilateralists should occupy the moral high ground on this issue."

The tragedy of the Korean airliner last week clearly gave cause for concern over the kind of foreign and defence policies pursued by the Soviet Union, Professor Regan said.

He stressed however that the society would aim to draw in a broad range of academics from different institutions and different disciplines including medicine, theology, and philosophy, as well as USSR and defence experts.

Invited speakers to next week's conference include Count Nikolai Tolstoy, the author, who will speak on Soviet oppression, Mr David Levy, senior lecturer in sociology at Middlesex Polytechnic, on Soviet ideology, and Professor Robert Jastrow, an American astrophysicist from Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, on defence matters.

The conference will elect a governing committee which will turn to plan a series of conferences and seminars on nuclear policy at institutions around the country. The society plans to debate the deeper moral and philosophical issues behind disarmament strategies, as well as defence questions.

By offering a policy of change from within the YTS, delegates ignored a plea from Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers at a Tribune group rally when



## NAB plan faces stormy passage

continued from front page

year that such a change had resulted from changes in the funding system, despite the fact that courses given the highest priority by the DES are concentrated in the polytechnics.

Mr Christopher Ball, chairman of the NAB board, conceded this week that not all of the bids made by colleges had been "as valuable as others" but said that the secretariat had enough to work on. He also confirmed the likelihood of a similar exercise in two or three years' time.

"It would be unreasonable to put the system through it again next year, although we may have to tidy up loose ends quite quickly," he said.

Mr Robert Dixon, director of education for Walsall, described the proposed closures of the West Midlands degrees in humanities, leisure and recreational studies and visual communications as equivalent to a rape. He said the courses only recently received honours and were valued by both the Council for National Academic Awards and Her Majesty's Inspectorate.

Mr C. Cox, the principal of the college, said he was absolutely stunned by the proposals as the courses the NAB wanted to close were vocally oriented and in growth areas. The college had anticipated a small growth in number and not a cut.

Union view, Page 27

## David Jobbins reports from the TUC in Blackpool

### Warwick fails to win seat

A measured response to the college and course closures proposed by the National Advisory Body came at the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool this week.

Even the normally acid-tongued Clive Jenkins, chairman of the TUC education committee, restricted his speech to outlining the statistical implications of the loss of 5,000 to 10,000 places in 1984.

"The polytechnic especially will suffer a major cut in places when the 18 to 21-year-old population is increasing and competition for college places is already fierce," he said. Britain was moving towards a position when only "an elite of exceptionally qualified and brilliant or wealthy young people" would be able to gain entry to higher education.

It was left to Mr Ray Grace of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education to add the human dimension. He told delegates that less orthodox students would face more severe competition to enter higher education - students like three he had recently taught, an unemployed person from Consett, an unemployed ship builder, and a retired headmistress of 70.

He stressed however that the society would aim to draw in a broad range of academics from different institutions and different disciplines including medicine, theology, and philosophy, as well as USSR and defence experts.

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By offering a policy of change from within the YTS, delegates ignored a plea from Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers at a Tribune group rally when

he called for talks on how to get rid of the scheme rather than how to improve it.

There was widespread relief among the teacher unions at the vote and the way the campaign to pull out of YTS had been checked. Mr Bill Keys, chairman of the TUC education committee, warned that YTS would go ahead anyway if unions turned their backs on young people - but in an unmonitored way in non-union workplaces.

Deeply angered by the critics of TUC policy towards YTS, he said: "We know that the present horrendous level of youth unemployment means that many young people will have no other kind of chance than that through YTS. The MSC cannot make up for the shortcomings of government economic policy."

Moving the successful composite, Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education said the trade union movement at all levels had to work to maximize opportunities and minimize the dangers. If the problems were not overcome, the commitment to involvement in the schemes would be reviewed "but at the present time this scheme still gives us great opportunities."

YTS will now be closely monitored with a report to the 1984 congress when continued support will be reviewed.

The unsuccessful demands by the National Geographical Association called for an immediate review of continued involvement. Ms Brenda Philbin, condemned the YTS as a "disgraceful con trick". Continued support made the TUC party to a fraud, for its young people would never forgive them, she said.

Her credits for "the Royal Shakespeare Company include: *The Wars of the Roses* (1963/64); *Ophelia* (1963/66) and *Hello and Goodbye* (1973).

She has appeared in several plays for the BBC and ITV including *Macbeth* (1970), *Twelfth Night* (1973), *Anthony and Cleopatra* and *Miss Nightingale*, both in 1974.

Her films include *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* (1970), *Nicholas and Alexandra* (1971), *The Priest of Love* (1980) and *The Draughtsman's Contract* (1981).

Union view, Page 27

## A new role for actress

by Trina Franeis

Royal Shakespearean actress Janet Suzman is poised to take on a new role as visiting professor of drama at Westfield College, University of London.

Miss Suzman (right) whose appointment is yet to be confirmed by the college, is expected to start next month. She is to take part in workshops and help prepare an anthology on "themes in drama", to come out of a conference next March.

The Westfield College drama course now combines Westfield students with those from the Central School of Speech and Drama.

Miss Suzman, who graduated from Kingsmead College, Johannesburg and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, has won three major awards for Best Actress during her stage career. In 1971, she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress.

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Union view, Page 27

## News in Brief

### Royal Society's £5m acid test

The Royal Society this week announced a £5m research programme funded initially by the Central Electricity Generating Board and the National Coal Board to study the effects of acid rain on surface waters in Norway and Sweden and the damage done to fisheries.

The research will last at least five years and is to be undertaken in collaboration with the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. It will not seek to establish how acid rain is created but the results will be published without restriction.

A management committee has been set up to oversee the project, chaired by Sir Morris Sugden, vice president of the Royal Society. The programme director will be Sir John Mason.

### Safety study

The Institution of Electrical Engineers has been awarded a Government grant of £10,000 to administer a study into the safety aspects of undergraduate engineering courses.

The study will examine the extent of existing codes of practice and regulations, whether they are met to the curricula of universities, polytechnics and colleges, and how the curricula and course materials can be improved.

Anyone interested in applying to undertake the study should contact the secretary, (Ref: LS/MD), Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL.

### Sporting chance

Stirling University is to award two new sports bursaries, bringing its total to eight. The scheme, now in its third year, enables students to combine high level sport with academic studies by extending their degree course by a year.

The new bursaries have been awarded to John Huggan, a golfer, and Stephen Lymington, a junior squash champion. The university has already awarded two other golf bursaries, three badminton bursaries and a canoeing bursary.

### Pharmacy inquiry

The Nuffield Foundation has set up a committee of inquiry into pharmacy to examine how practice in this country compares with that in health care, and the education and training that should be given to pharmacists. The foundation has recently completed a similar inquiry into dental education.

Chairing the pharmacy inquiry will be Sir Charles, formerly permanent secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, who was formerly chairman of the Nuffield Foundation.



School for Fools: Two weeks of clowning, mime, commedia dell'arte and juggling attracted performers and those with aspirations for a summer adult education course. Mr John Lee's School for Fools spawned three new theatre groups. He is repeating the course at the Bristol Folk House in November and later in London.

### Overseas halls fees queried

Students at an outer London polytechnic are taking legal advice over higher, residential and catering charges to overseas students.

They believe that differential fees were "outlawed" by the Government in the regulations published this year.

Most polytechnics which had previously required overseas students to pay a higher rate have fallen into line but North East London Polytechnic plans to charge £31.82 a week for its Temple Mills accommodation compared with £24 for home students.

NELP seems to be an isolated example. Differential charges were a major issue in polytechnics two or three years ago when there were allegations that it was a breach of the Race Relations Act to charge overseas students more than home students.

### Masons refused permission to use City University title

City University has refused permission for a group to call itself the City University Masonic Lodge.

The authority to use the title was questioned at the university's last council meeting, before the lodge was formed. The lodge had also used letters for sale to members of convocation to say that the lodge secretary had been contacted via the convocation clerk on any matter.

The lodge was formed in 1982 and was given permission by the university to use the title.

### 'Wrecks' research is salvaged

St Andrews University is to salvage work threatened by the cuts by launching a new maritime research organization.

In 1981, the University Grants Committee recommended axing St Andrews' archaeology department, and there is no longer any undergraduate teaching in archaeology. However, the university has retained a noted Institute of Maritime Archaeology, one of only five in the world.

Staff in the research institute have pioneered the scientific investigation of sunken wrecks, including ships of the Spanish Armada and the Dutch East India Company.

This weekend, the university is to inaugurate the Scottish Institute of Maritime Studies, which will draw together the work of archaeologists, ethnologists and historians.

### Argentine book ban takes universities by surprise

There is increasing disquiet among academics over the Government ban on importing books from Argentina as part of its embargo on trade with the country.

The Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (Sconul) was alerted to the problem six weeks ago by Essex University which had several consignments of books ceased by Customs at Dover.

"An official from Essex, a major centre for Latin American studies, said they had been unaware until told by Customs that import licences were needed for Argentine books, and that no licences were being granted at present. Institutions understood to be affected include St Andrews University, University College London, Portsmouth Polytechnic, the British Library, and the National Library of Scotland."

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## The tangle of the isles

The registrar of a Scottish university, who is Irish, may be refused a job at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, because he does not speak Welsh.

Mr Fred Smyth, an Ulsterman, who has been at Stirling University for 10 years applied for the job of registrar at Bangor. He was interviewed and told in writing by the appointments committee that he would be recommended for the job.

But then an emergency meeting of council was called and members expressed their concern that despite the college's bilingual policy, it was about to appoint a registrar who could not speak Welsh.

Senate then expressed disquiet about the selection procedure and the matter went to a further council meeting. It was decided to defer consideration of the selection until after the new principal had been appointed.

That has now happened and Professor Eric Sutherland, who does speak Welsh, is the principal-designate. So he will influence the decision, which will be made within the next two months.

Within Bangor there is amazement that the committee did not specify at the outset that the applicants must speak Welsh. There is also concern that they might be in breach of race discrimination law.

Mr Smyth said: "It would be improper for me to comment on college procedures."

A spokesman for the college confirmed that the selection had been deferred.

## ACACE still uncertain

Talks between officials of the Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education and the Minister for Higher Education, Peter Brooke, last week failed to clear the air about the future of ACACE services.

ACACE, which is to wind down in October after six years' work, had hoped for an assurance from the minister about who will take over its developmental role.

The consultant for ACACE, Dimitri Argyropoulos, said the meeting was "no more than an informal chat and an opportunity for ACACE officials to meet the new minister."

Mr Argyropoulos said although there had been no commitment by the minister



# Fewer offers would reduce 'mad rush'

by Ngain Crequer

University admissions tutors should make fewer offers of places to avoid the "mad rush" from applicants, a leading careers adviser said last week.

Mr Brian Heap, head of careers guidance at Hutton Grammar School, Preston, was launching the fourth edition of his *Degree Course Offers 1983/84*, a guide to selection and admission in degree courses.

"Admissions tutors should come out on a limb and reduce the number of offers they make to reduce the trauma and the mad rush for places," he said. He added that ideally they should make fewer offers than places as they knew they would always get many

more applicants than places and could still pick and choose.

He also criticized the admissions system generally, pointing out that parents and teachers who "telephoned round" universities avoided the clearing house system.

Nor was it true, he said, that the closing date for applications was December 15. It was really March 31 because a university had discretion to look at candidates, so thereby keeping its options open.

The Universities Central Council on Admissions said candidates could bracket their choices but it was risky to do so, according to Heap, and some admissions tutors advised strongly against it. Nor did students know the

effect of placing a university low in their five choices. He did not retain any hope however that the system would get better.

Mr Heap listed 14 universities which would expect students to get 10 points or more to gain a place. (Grade A equals five points, grade B equals four points and so on.) They are Bristol, Manchester, Birmingham, Exeter, Edinburgh, Durham, Warwick, St Andrews, Nottingham, Southampton, Bath, Liverpool, Leeds and University College, London.

He said the expected standards were slightly lower at Dundee, Merlot-Watt, Bangor, Belfast, Keele, Essex, Aberdeen and St David's, Lampeter. Last year in about 30 per cent of

university courses and 18 per cent of polytechnic courses, grades had increased by one point. He thought that next year the position would hold steady but standards might rise even more in accountancy, materials science, physics, chemistry, computer studies and psychology. But he thought these and other increases would be more likely in the polytechnic sector.

Some schools and parents regarded business studies as "too trendy", almost the successor to sociology. Some schools said American studies attracted the least academically able and motivated of sixth-formers, Mr Heap said.

He also criticized the poor advice given by some schools and careers teachers. "Even now you hear teachers saying that their sixth-formers do not need careers advice." Others seemed to believe that examination grades were the most important thing in life. There were still schools which thought that "thickies" should be encouraged to go into engineering, he said.

*Degree Course Offers 1983/84* by Brian Heap, from Careers Consultants Ltd, 12-14 Hill Rise, Richmond Hill, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6UA, price £6.50 plus 98p postage and packing. *Professional and Vocational Degree Course Offers* by Brian Heap, available as above, price £5.50 plus 98p postage and packing.

## Students urged to look further afield for places

Students still trying to find a university place must consider going to any part of the United Kingdom, the Universities Central Council on Admissions said this week.

In a statement to schools and career officers, they said that some students virtually disqualified themselves by excluding some regions, even though there might be vacancies in their subject.

According to UCCA there will be fewer places in clearing this year than last, with half the number of applica-

tions expected, so far received.

In the arts it will be difficult to place candidates with low or moderate grades but there are some vacancies for those with good language qualifications, a B and C at least. Classics, Russian, religious studies and music have vacancies, but good grades are still necessary.

There are very few vacancies in social studies and even less in medicine, dentistry and the medical sciences. But there is a shortage of well-qualified applicants in pharmacology.

In pure science it looks better, with as many places as last year still available. Candidates need middling to good grades. In technology, low grades are not accepted in particular in electrical and mechanical engineering. There are places in metallurgy, but no vacancies in veterinary studies or forestry.

About 172,000 candidates applied through UCCA this year, 1,000 more than last. Last year 78,000 were accepted, some 6,000 through clearing.

## Making things count for millions who can't add up



Principal Brenda Remington: problem of time

A new campaign to help the millions of adults who have difficulty with simple addition will take place next week with the aim of encouraging as many as possible to take up numeracy classes.

The Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit (ALBSU), which is sponsoring National Numeracy Week has run successful literacy campaigns in previous years. But the new initiative will concentrate on student recruitment, rather than promoting community awareness.

"We want to provide practical help," said Mr Alan Wells, the director of ALBSU. Many of the new recruits, he said, would be housewives. Many lacked confidence with numbers and perceived the problems as being firmly rooted in their everyday lives, where they confronted difficulties with shopping, home maintenance and in wanting to help their school-age children.

Men, on the other hand, saw numeracy problems affecting them most crucially in employment, Mr Wells said.

One in ten adults cannot add up the bill for a few items bought at the supermarket, or work out how much will cost. Ten per cent of the British population has difficulty with simple addition. Almost one third cannot deal with multiplication, division and percentages.

Those for whom numbers just don't add up often face huge problems in seeking and retaining employment and going on to further education. To qualify for most job training schemes - including Government-sponsored ones - they must have at least a basic proficiency with numbers.

As part of National Numeracy Week a new television series, *Counting On*, will be launched on Channel 4 to help adults gain the numeracy skills they



The National Numeracy Week official logo, produced by the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit (ALBSU)

need for everyday life. *Counting On* follows two earlier Yorkshire Television series, *Make It Count* and *Numbers at Work*, but it is the first series on numeracy specially commissioned by Channel 4.

More than 8,000 adults in England and Wales are receiving tuition in numeracy. Twice that number are receiving combined literacy/numeracy tuition.

National Numeracy Week, which also is promoted at local level. The Post Office will frank two million letters to alert organizations and will display promotional posters in all main branches.

The ALBSU has organized videos and tape/slide shows for local schemes. Publicizing National Numeracy Week. Viewers of the *Counting On* series will be able to call on several support services - a phone number to call for further information; a workbook containing computer quizzes, produced by the National Extension College in Cambridge; and a quiz-making service.

## Some distance in the lead

Tydside colleges are poised to take a lead in distance learning, despite an initial setback. Two years ago, Kingsway Technical College in Dundee was invited by British Telecom to apply to run its external students scheme for the UK, but the scheme was ultimately awarded to the National Extension College in Cambridge.

However, Kingsway is the only college in Scotland offering distance learning courses for British Telecom, and Tydside Regional Council is now discussing with the NEC the possibility of Kingsway running the schemes for the whole of Scotland on an agency basis.

Following the original application, both the Manpower Services Commission's Open Tech and the Scottish Development Agency have become interested in Tydside's distance learning projects.

The Open Tech is considering developing distance learning at technical level in Tydside and the SDA is considering funding market research into the demand and potential demand for distance learning from industry.

Mr Geoffrey Drought, Tydside's deputy director of education for further and community education, said a consortium was emerging in Dundee of colleges interested in distance learning.

Dundee College of Education is noted for its work in educational technology, Dundee College of Technology runs distance learning courses for industry with links abroad, while Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art runs courses for the UK printing industry.

At Dundee University, the Centre for Medical Education is one of only two British centres offering distance learning in the health field, involving 10,000 GPs.

## Print-it-yourself group brings out third title

by Paul Flather

Academics at Glasgow University are publishing their work using simple new technology under their own imprint. Pressing, because it is cheaper than using the usual commercial publishers.

The latest book out this week is *Unpublished Lives* which analyses the experiences of Scottish women between 1850 and 1920.

It is the third book to be published by Pressing, which was set-up by Dr Jason Dittor, a lecturer in sociology, as a non-profit making company. The 200-page book is based on original research by the Glasgow Women's Studies Group and 300 copies have been printed.

Dr Dittor was unwilling to pay sometimes up to £25 for an academic book. He took advice from the Glasgow printing department on how to

produce books cheaply in short print runs.

"I am not trying to turn myself into a proper commercial publisher," he said. "I try to use the simplest and cheapest methods to produce books that may never be published at all in normal circumstances."

He feels this is particularly true about books dealing with Scottish topics, considered too parochial by some publishers to be worth producing for the British or foreign markets.

Authors must produce camera-ready copy, usually using electronic typesetting and laserlaser. A cover is designed by the university printing department using a computer. Rout-

in the future could begin to set aside say £1,000 from any grant to ensure publication of their work.

Previous Pressing titles are *The Thinking Person* by Christine Larnar (300 print run), and *Women Workers in Scotland* by Esther Breitenbach (500 print run sold-out). The next book to be published is *The Glasgow Lectures* by Professor Anthony Sanford, professor of psychology at Glasgow.

The emergence of Pressing ironically coincides with the demise in the activities of the Glasgow University Press. The post of publications officer has been left unfilled since January, and Glasgow now prefers to give grants to commercial publishers rather than produce books itself.

The unit will be directed by Professor Alexander Florence and Dr Fraser Stuart of the pharmacy department, and a senior research fellow of the 'Cancer Research Campaign' at Glasgow University's department of clinical oncology.

## Director urges solidarity

by Patricia Santinelli

Educational researchers should make both politically and intellectually counterweight growing Government centralism, according to the new director of the London Institute of Education.

Professor Denis Lawton was speaking on the politics of educational research at the British Educational Research Association conference in London last week. He said education was essential to make research more effective when the Government was giving it low priority and restricting it to limited commissioning.

"What I am suggesting is the need for the research community to become more politically aware and able to bat for its own interests," he said. "The research community has the Pope, but how many MPs can be mustered to ask awkward questions in the House on behalf of the research community?" he said. Above all there is a means of organizing the research community to become a lobby on important issues," he asked.

Professor Lawton added that despite the existence of BERA, the research community was ill-defined, dispersed, and lacking in any cohesion and power. Far from having any power, it had almost no influence.

Professor Lawton suggested that way of attaining a power base was gaining greater influence would be to invite other groups to join the educational research community. One need not be researchers working for the Department of Education and Science, he said, but those who were isolated and whose work is unpublished.

"This group would also include Her Majesty's Inspectorate. Encouraging them to consider themselves as part of the educational research community might even increase the intensity of productive tension which already exists between some HMI's and some institutions within the DES, who are ideologically committed to bureaucratic centralism than professional," he said.

Other groups included the National Foundation for Educational Research, whose work had seldom been given prominence it deserved. Teachers and their organizations should also be encouraged to do more research, especially as they were its consumers.

Earlier Professor Lawton advocated a subtle line of resistance to Government policies, which he described as inevitable. "We should accept the centralist tendency of commissioning and encourage to do more research, especially as they were its consumers."

It was vital that researchers should point out the dangers of lack of adequate funds, the limitation of research to one area and continue to argue forcefully for pure research.

Professor Lawton also argued that some of the best research could be done without funding, through use of researchers' own time and money.

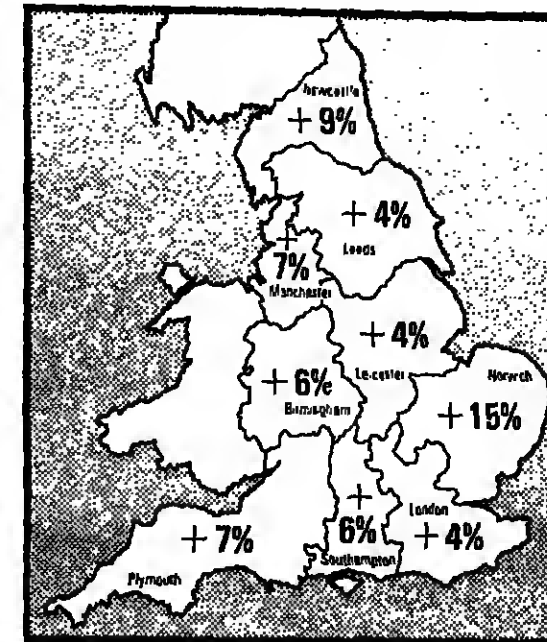
At Dundee University, the Centre for Medical Education is one of only two British centres offering distance learning in the health field, involving 10,000 GPs.

## Cancer research

A research unit which will evaluate new anti-cancer drugs has been established in Strathclyde University's pharmacy department, supported by grant of more than £70,000 from the Cancer Research Campaign.

The unit will be directed by Professor Alexander Florence and Dr Fraser Stuart of the pharmacy department, and a senior research fellow of the 'Cancer Research Campaign' at Glasgow University's department of clinical oncology.

## John O'Leary examines the thinking behind last week's cost-cutting proposals for the public sector



Academic programmes (1982/83)	% change	% change
	All	Full-time
Initial teacher training	18.6	+3
In-service and other education	1.7	+2
Medicine, dentistry and health	6.2	+8
Engineering	23.4	+8
Agriculture	0.6	+8
Science	15.2	+10
Mathematics and computing	1.8	+23
Management and law	32.2	+5
Social studies	20.8	-1
Architecture and other professions	15.1	+3
Languages (including English)	8.2	-4
Humanities	11.0	-4
Visual and performing arts	19.7	+10
Total	182.4	+8

Mode of study	1982/83	NAB Plan	% increase
Full-time	183,500	194,000	5.5
Part-time	58,750	62,750	6.7
Total	242,250	256,750	5.8

Level of study	1982/83	NAB Plan	% increase
Degree and above	151,500	158,000	4.0
Sub-degree	91,000	98,750	8.5
Total	242,500	256,750	5.8

## A plan for all regions

Some revision of the proposals is certain even before then, in the light of institutional responses, and it will be surprising if the list of closures and mergers is not reduced before the plan finally reaches Sir Keith in November.

Mr Bevan has stressed that the list would not disappear entirely even if the NAB was given all the money it has asked for, but both he and Mr Christopher Ball, chairman of the NAB board, have been at pains to point out the provisional nature of the plan.

In fact, given the guidelines issued by Sir Keith and the criteria agreed by the board, it is hardly surprising that the plan falls short of the radical shake-up which many had expected. The board had discussed both the overall numbers feasible under the Government's spending plans and the division of those numbers by regions and academic programmes. And Sir Keith had already written: "When the NAB considers the institutions plans I hope that, without neglect to the pattern of student demand, priority will be accorded to scientific and technological provision of value to industry, to the operational needs of industry, commerce and the professions, and to meeting the future needs

of employers more generally, not least at technician level."

Mr Ball himself had also laid down seven planning criteria of his own before the exercise began, pledging the NAB to preserve the best 90 per cent of public sector higher education at the expense of the remaining 10 per cent. His main considerations were local and regional emphasis; the "seamless web" of advanced and non-advanced further education; the coexistence of full-time, part-time and sandwich students; the primacy of teaching; responsiveness to the needs of students and the economy; cost-effectiveness; and concern for quality.

The last - and arguably the most important - factor influencing the proposals were the submissions of the institutions themselves. The "bids", as the submissions have come to be known, were widely dismissed as window-dressing when consultation began, but it appears that most institutions have been taken at their word. Although fewer than half of the colleges and polytechnics cooperated to the extent of identifying priority areas of work, virtually all gave some sort of answer on how they would cope with a 10 per cent budget cut. Mr Bevan does

not claim that those who did identify priorities have come out best but he says that most areas of work identified as essential have been protected.

The plan has taken 11 months to produce, with only one unavoidable hiccup for the general election. Members of the secretariat were given regional briefs and advice was taken on an informal basis from the validating bodies and Her Majesty's Inspectorate. The result has been a set of proposals which relate directly to the individual institutions, rather than merely fitting into a national scheme. The secretariat claims to have been unaware of the split between the polytechnics and the rest, for example, because this was not one of the considerations.

Comparisons are fraught with difficulty because none of the figures can be taken at face value. The polytechnics are given more students than the sum of their bids, the colleges fewer, but total polytechnic numbers will rise by only 4.6 per cent compared with the colleges' increase of almost 8 per cent. The explanation lies in the way the colleges' bids were slanted, giving the lion's share of the part-time and sub-degree increases which the

## Both sides blamed in NUS 'audit'

by David Jobbins

The poor industrial relations at the National Union of Students' London headquarters are unlikely to improve without fundamental changes in the attitudes of both management and union, an independent report says.

A study by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service concludes: "The main theme running through all our discussions was the lack of trust between management and trade union."

ACAS says that the union must accept management's role of proposing and effecting change in line with the wishes of the NUS leaders, while the management must accept the union's efforts to protect its members from inappropriate and unnecessary change and ensure fair treatment for those affected.

"The audit" was established as part of the settlement which ended last year's nine-day strike at the NUS headquarters over the introduction of new working practices and the alleged dismissal of people who refused to implement them.

But it is being circulated within the NUS just as talks over another dispute - an attempt by management to introduce a new salary structure with responsibility payments for supervisory staff - have reached deadlock.

The committee of the Association of Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Staffs, which operates a closed shop at the headquarters, was meeting this week to discuss the next step.

ACAS's fact finding occupied two weeks earlier this summer when interviews were held with 38 members of staff out of a total of 70, including Mr Neil Stewart, the NUS president, and the executive accepted all the

management. Officials also spoke to members of the national executive.

The union management, the ACTSS and the executive all accepted that industrial relations were poor and the management blamed the union for failing to appreciate fully the pressing need for greater cost-effectiveness and improved methods of working.

But the management itself came in for criticism from members of staff for a style "lending itself more to confrontation than motivation".

The staff frequently criticized the NEC's decision-making as confused and lacking in a clear sense of priorities.

Additionally, "there was a strong body of opinion that many of the executive, perhaps even most of them, did not consent to the management and industrial relations policies being carried out in their name."

"The general tone was that the executive by and large were ill-informed of staff matters and the 'professional' management policies being pursued were in fact those of a small coterie on the national executive and the chief executive, aided and abetted by members of management."

Mr John Ganner, the chief executive, was appointed by the NUS to head the management team set up to create a more cost-effective organization offering higher professional services to student unions.

Although the ACAS team accepted that trust cannot be restored overnight, they say they were encouraged by a high degree of concern for the future well-being of the organization.



Industrialist Dr David Jones, director of the Brighton-based international consulting engineering company Ewbank Price Limited, has been appointed the new chairman of Brighton Polytechnic's council. Dr Jones became a member of the council in 1981 and has served on several polytechnic committees. He takes over from Mr Peter Gladwin.

## Leisurely approach needed

The Sports Council has been accused of giving its support to established team games like football, instead of taking more interest in new sports.

The Leisure Studies Association, an independent group, claims that football and other team games no longer dominate the sports scene.

In a report in the latest issue of the LSA's newsletter, Les Hayward, of Bradford and Ilkley Community College, says more resources should go to individual sports like skateboarding, hang-gliding, ballooning and jogging.

Mr Hayward argues that the Sports Council's strategy is "too dismissive"

of these new sports. He criticizes the council for being "too reliant" on existing sport governing bodies, which continue to offer "more of the same" as a solution to problems posed by economic and social change.

On advice, Mr Hayward says government "cast around desperately" to pinpoint reasons for a decline in interest in the national game. Hooliganism and too much exposure to television were blamed, but no attempt was made to look at the game itself, he says.

In fact, the public show every indication of having gone off the game.



NAB 10% funding exercise

NAB had decided upon. Fewer than 2,000 of the polytechnics' additional students are on sub-degree courses, compared with 5,000 in the colleges and institutes.

But the story is reversed at degree and postgraduate levels. Partly because of the loss of places through the proposed college closures, the colleges receive only about 1,300 extra degree students while the polytechnics get 5,500. Again there is more to the figures than a straightforward policy of developing higher level courses in the polytechnics. The Government's information technology initiative, which accounts for a number of new student places, lends itself to the polytechnics, while last year's teacher training cuts distort the colleges' total.

The information technology initiative also distorts the division by academic programmes, boosting numbers both in the engineering category and, more significantly, in mathematics and computing. Similarly, the redesignation of DATEC courses swelled the numbers in the arts category, while the prior announcement of teacher training targets prevented the secretariat from making any alterations in that programme.

The next stage of the exercise unfolds in 10 days, the deadline for institutions to comment on the proposals. That will leave the secretariat almost four weeks to revise its plan before the board's residential weekend and the first discussion of the national picture. With the committee set to make its final decisions in November in time for Sir Keith to make his pool allocation before Christmas, the timetable is still tight.

Fitted into that schedule must come agreement on the proposed new funding system, giving new weighting to the various academic programmes and to degree-level courses. The combination, assuming no major changes in policy, will leave a continuing row over funding levels as both colleges and polytechnics are asked to take more students for less money in real terms. But it will not change the character of the public sector... this time.

Next week: The plan in detail

## Lecturers want equal numbers

by Ngain Crequer

Keele University lecturers were this week seeking a tribunal order forcing the university to say how many women had applied for jobs and how successful they had been.

The local Association of University Teachers at Keele has been asking the university for the last five months for the information on female job applicants. But the university has always said that it did not collect such information centrally and it did not have the administrative staff to do so.

The AUT then called in the Government Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service (ACAS) which said that under employment law the union had a right to the information and its request had been reasonably put.

The university was still unmoved and so this week a preliminary informal hearing of the Central Arbitration Committee was being held, to try to resolve the issue.

Dr Frances Grindy, assistant secretary of Keele AUT said the purpose of the case was two-fold: to see whether

there was bias in favour of or against women in appointments; and to encourage people to look at why women were not applying and why they were not going into research.

She said she was not accusing the university of sex discrimination. "We teach equal classes in terms of the sexes, but they are unequal in terms of those who teach. So where does the process go wrong?" she asked.

A university official said: "There is no disagreement between the university and the union on the desirability of monitoring this information. The only difficulty is when we can implement it, following the severe cuts in staff."

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## Overseas news

It was called the "kiddies' (CIOGM) by the press. But the Commonwealth Student Conference held in Melbourne University last week did not set out to be a Commonwealth I leads of Government Meeting. It did, however, bring together for the first time a disparate group of student leaders from Commonwealth countries, including Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Canada and Britain.

The conference's stated aim was to promote discussion of educational and social issues among students representing developed and Third World countries, "to create an environment for ongoing cooperation among students of the Commonwealth", according to the president of the Australian Union of Students, Julia Gilford.

The inevitable political favour of the conference is illustrated by the fact that South Africa was also represented by an exiled member of the banned African National Congress, Andrew Moletsane, who now lives in the "front-line states" coordinating work for the South African trade union movement.

Then there were the topics discussed at the conference: liberation struggles, decolonization, women and the past.

## Science man appointed

Canada has appointed a former vice rector for research of the University of Quebec as its first full time senior advisor on science and technology. As Secretary of the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, Louis Berlinguet will sit on four major Cabinet committees in order to advise prime minister Pierre Trudeau and his ministers on the scientific and technological impact of government policy proposals.

Berlinguet will also "play the leading role within government" when it comes to planning Canada's overall science and technology effort, say ministry officials. The appointment brings major changes to the ministry of state for science and technology. Trimmed off nearly half its staff, the ministry will become a coordinating body, leaving the execution of scientific policy to other government departments.

## Foreign change

The Ontario government has modified its 40 per cent tuition increase for foreign students. Under the new arrangement, visa students entering their second year next month will not begin paying the full increase until the winter semester period. Their tuition for the autumn session will rise by only 5 per cent.

Ontario was one of six Canadian provinces charging higher tuition to non-Canadians. The others are Quebec, Alberta, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Nearly half the 24,771 foreign university students in Canada last year studied in Ontario.

## Petrol dollars

An oilman's donation of \$125 million to Louisiana State University is thought to be the largest gift ever made to a US educational institution. Dr. C. B. Pennington, an 83-year-old Louisiana oil executive, has put stocks and shares in a trust fund for a nutrition and preventive medicine centre to be constructed on the LSU campus at Baton Rouge and opening in 1985.

Previously, the largest recorded donation was the \$105 million given to Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, by the Emily and Ernest Woodruff Fund. The fund was created by Robert W. Woodruff, a retired chairman of the Coca-Cola Co.

## York freeze

For the first time in its 23-year history, York University is denying admission to large numbers of qualified students. Faced with funding problems and a 16 per cent jump in applications, the Toronto university has decided to freeze first year enrolment at 1982/83 levels. The freeze means that the entrance requirement from a 60 per cent to a 70 per cent average. Some 1,400 applicants with averages above 60 per cent have been turned away and even students with marks as high as 85 per cent have been refused entry to certain undergraduate programmes.

Geoff Maslen reports on the students' conference in Melbourne

## Tragedy of learning the hard way

laws, and nuclear disarmament; issues that higher education students in most parts of the world try, freely or clandestinely, to grapple with.

Among the guest speakers were Renai Lohia, chairman of Papua New Guinea's public service and a former vice chancellor of the university there; Anon Nsekele, chairman of the National Bank of Commerce in Tanzania and a former high commissioner to London; and Devaki Jain, director of the Institute of Social Studies Trust in New Delhi, and a well-known Indian feminist.

There were speeches about the North-South dialogue, student mobility, and the "role of university-based social, charitable and Christian organizations in improving rural life".

But in peaceful, sunny Melbourne the conditions confronting higher education students in other parts of the world seemed impossibly remote. There were, nevertheless, references time and again to the repression,

harassment and outright brutality which students in some Third World countries were obliged to accept.

The deputy secretary of the Asian Students Union, Ms Lisa Dacanay, said the Philippines government was particularly oppressive towards students. "The exercise of student rights — the right of freedom of speech, assembly and organization — is suppressed," she said. "All student organizations were banned when martial law was imposed 17 years ago and, officially, still are."

Students were harassed, arrested, hauled out of lecture theatres and imprisoned, subjected to arrest-search-and-seizure orders, chased on campuses by militia, and spied and reported on by government agents.

Ms Dacanay said students were also oppressed in other Asian countries such as Malaysia, where government legislation bans student organizations. She also claimed that 51 Nepalese

students had been placed in detention centres after a government crackdown earlier this year, nine students were killed in Pakistan after the military opened fire on a campus demonstration and about 600 students had been held in custody in Sri Lanka under a law that allows detention for up to 18 months without trial.

The Swaziland student representative, Mr Fanyana Dlamini, said that while his country's government opposed apartheid, it gagged the student population on the issue for fear of economic reprisals by South Africa.

"Our government wants to keep us quiet and represses students over the apartheid issue," he said. "We are given no forums, no media access. We are allowed no public opposition to apartheid because our government is economically dependent on South Africa. We identify with the oppression in South Africa and realize that unless South Africa is free, Swaziland will never be free."

Mr Moletsane said he had been imprisoned for 11 months by the South African authorities for student activities and was now forced to live in exile. "Black South African students enjoy none of the privileges of white students," he said.

"Of 17 universities, five are for blacks who make up 75 per cent of the population. Black students are harassed by the Government, imprisoned without trial, arrested or detained without reason."

South African tensions spilled over into the conference. The white South African observer withdrew at the last minute when black African delegates said that, in line with their government policies, they could not be in the company of a white South African at an international forum. The issue embarrassed the organizers, discomfited the blacks, and the white South Africa did not want to talk about it.

Delegates from more than 20 countries managed to make it to the conference. But internal strife prevented Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Sri Lanka, Zambia and Cyprus from being represented.



Garret Fitzgerald: spoke of increase

## 'Give precise projections'

from John Walshe

DUBLIN  
Ireland's Higher Education Authority wants the government to state the exact number of student places that will be provided up to the end of the decade.

Last year there were 44,500 full-time students in higher education and recently the Taoiseach Dr Garret Fitzgerald spoke vaguely about a 50 per cent increase over a 10-year period. But the HEA, which is a statutory body, would like a more definite figure.

Dr Fitzgerald's Fine Gael party had talked about 60,000 to 70,000 places while the HEA at one stage had set down a target of 75,000.

The HEA says there are many questions about the extent of the increased intake which is required and which can be absorbed by the national economy.

Its comments are contained in a submission to the education minister, Gemma Hussey, who is preparing a detailed action programme on education 1984-1997.

The submission also makes it clear that, apart from the extra revenue needed to cope with any increased student enrolment, the existing provision is inadequate.

The budgets for the university colleges were cut two years running by 8 per cent on what the authorities regarded as the minimum necessary to keep them ticking over. Tuition fees have gone up substantially bringing their share of total college income from 13 per cent in 1979/80 to more than 17 per cent at present.

The submission lists the economy measures already underway in the universities including: 180 posts frozen; telephone monitoring; photocopying; entering out-backs; reduction in cleaning; introduction of charges for courses to increase income; changes to a wide range of services such as accommodation, printing, lockers, telephone hardware and telephone calls.

The search for economies within the colleges will go on because of the realities of financial difficulties, says the submission. But, it adds pointedly, the hard fact remains that increasing numbers of students, simply cannot be catered for in any major way without some increase in resources.

## Chill blows the wind for France

from Guy Neave

PARIS  
Though higher education budgets have grown considerably over the past two years, the chill winds of financial austerity are beginning to blow through France's universities.

Late in 1982 university administrators were instructed by the ministry of education to exercise a more rigorous approach to their financial management.

The call has not always been heeded. It is current practice in many French universities to spend up to — and in some cases — well beyond the limits allowed by central government and then persuade the government to step in at the last moment and bail out the improvident.

Courses attracting relatively few students are being asked to merge wherever possible to permit further savings. Now the rumour is that the 1984 budget will be even less favourable with the main fear being that resources available to pay part-time hours and those staff who rely on them exclusively for their wages may be cut to the bone.

M Jean Jacques Payen, director general for higher education, has not denied this. He has also come out with rather more precise information as to the way the ministry will enforce financial compliance.

Some improvements are to be made to the staff-student ratio and additional funds will be unlocked to bolster up technical staff and other support services.

But the stick is not far behind the carrot. New posts, the director general said, will go to those universities showing a notable effort in making more efficient use of their already existing resources. Those who fail to do so will see their resources reduced to aid those who can.

## Selective role urged on unions

Poland's new trade unions should play a big part in the selection of young people for higher education, Premier Wojciech Jaruzelski urged recently. He was speaking at the Balidon steel mill in Katowice, the heartland of the Silesian industrial belt, addressing a meeting of union organizers from all over Poland.

The unionists, he said, during their deliberations, had stressed mainly the problems of wages and "individual consumption". But they should also pay attention to the "enormous shortcomings" in the "collective consumption" sector — education, sport, health care, and culture. With recent population growth in Poland (the soaring birth-rate, the official news agency PAP announced recently, is the envy of Europe), the nation must be aware of its responsibilities in this latter sector. The "advancement of the working class" must, he said, "become a steady process".

In practical terms, this means, *inter alia*, that the proportion of young people from the families of workers and peasants who enter higher educational courses must be increased. This is a long-standing problem in Poland. In the early 1970s some interesting surveys were made in Warsaw, which demonstrated statistically that the child of intellectuals has, all else being equal, a better chance of good academic performance at school (and consequently, the chance of a university education) than the child of workers.

Warsaw provided a particularly suitable basis for this survey, since where the city was rebuilt after the last war, care was taken in the allocation of homes to get a homogeneous mix throughout the city of social and educational backgrounds — there should not be, it was felt, any specifically "working-class" or "intellectual" quarters. Consequently, the classroom stimulus — and indeed the standard of teaching in schools throughout the city was much more uniform than in, say, Krakow, where there are still considerable differences between the old "intellectual" residential areas and the industrial suburbs such as Nowa Huta.

Even greater discrepancies exist between educational standards in urban and rural schools. The latter have never been up to city standard, and the reforms of the 1970s which closed the small village schools in favour of large comprehensives, although providing better teaching facilities, had to cope with pupils who often arrived tired and breakfastless, after a journey of several kilometres without public transport — and who, at the end of classes had to face the same journey home before they could have their first meal of the day. (School meals and school buses, although advocated by planners, were implemented in only a few favoured



General Jaruzelski: "Advancement of the working class must be a steady process"

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## Nation hooked on education

from E. Patrick McQuaid

WASHINGTON  
The autumn term will see a quarter of all Americans engaged in education as their primary activity, according to recent ministry figures.

"In a nation with a population of 234 million" said the education secretary, Mr Terrell Bell, "more than one out of four persons will be a direct participant in the educational process, and that figure rises to nearly three out of 10 when the support staff of our nation's schools and colleges are included."

Some 56.7 million students and 3.6 million teachers and administrators will fill the schools and colleges, but not to the levels earlier years have seen thanks to a steady decline in kindergarten through secondary school enrolments, reflecting a post-baby boom dearth.

Tertiary enrolments are expected to hold steady at last year's peak of 12.4 million, however, because more and more older students, part-time students, women and minorities who have traditionally remained outside the college bracket are attending college and university.

Education spending, said the secretary, will be at an all-time high, despite budget cuts. Elementary and secondary schools will spend a likely \$141bn during the next academic year while colleges and universities will probably spend \$89bn.

According to the National Centre for Education Statistics, the federal government will cover about 9 per cent of the spending at public colleges and universities. The individual states will account for 39 per cent with local governments contributing an estimated 24 per cent. The remaining 28 per cent is derived from student tuitions, and fees, plus endowment earnings and private contributions.

College and university instructors were expected to number 870,000 this year, the same as last, while the number of elementary and secondary school teachers will drop by 10,000.

## Overseas news

## The Third World has lift-off

by Thomas Land

A global development agency has brought together the American telecommunications industry and Texas A & M University to design, finance and administer an ambitious training course in space-age skills for senior instructors and managers from the developing countries. Several Western universities are currently engaged in discussions leading to related study programmes.

The first of a series of 10-week sessions recently began at the A & M University's new model telecommunications training centre. The pupils, selected for the course by the United Nations International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva, are eventually to help in the establishment and administration of similar regional training centres when they return home.

The model centre has been designed by the United States Telecommunications Suppliers Association representing a rapidly growing industry which stands to gain considerable business through winning specialist friends in the developing countries about to enter the space age.

Several similar schemes are likely to be announced shortly by various Western donors. The UN's outer space division alone hopes to spend \$500,000 next year to promote advanced training schemes for the poor countries.

The purpose of the new model centre is to develop essential crafts and skills in telecommunications, to prepare teachers, educational and industrial planners and managers for training centre design, administration and operation, to provide instruction in the use of sophisticated training aids and techniques involved in various specialized courses, and to enable students to instruct trainees on their return home.

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THI



In the first of two articles, Jon Turney reports on the beleaguered Agricultural Research Council

## Lean times and furrowed brows

British committees are nothing if not gentlemanly. The Advisory Board for the Research Council's report to the Secretary of State for Education and Science last year spoke of the "excellent and valuable work" done by the Agricultural Research Council.

The same report then went on to recommend big cuts for the council. If confirmed this year, these will mean the loss of 500 or more ARC research workers and support staff. The advisory board explained: "This should not be taken to imply any general criticisms of the quality of research undertaken. It was all a matter of priorities."

That may have been so. But the board were clearly influenced by widespread disquiet about the way agricultural research is organized, if not by explicit criticism about its quality. That disquiet has often created problems in the past for agricultural research administrators, chiefly in the ARC and the Ministry of Agriculture. Now it looks as though it may give rise to a completely new structure.

In the mosaic of institutes, councils and committees which somehow work together to make British science policy, agricultural research and development has a corner to itself. Here, the ties have been lifted and reshuffled so often that many feel the logic of the original pattern has been lost.

Aside from the "forward look" by the main Government advisory committee, the ABRC, half a dozen other reports in the last year have proposed changes in the budgets, priorities or organization of agricultural research. More change must be on the way. Will it bring another running repair or a complete redesign?

The rest of the country's research workers will await the outcome almost as anxiously as agricultural scientists. After all, it was a confidential report in 1970, recommending transfer of the ARC to the Ministry of Agriculture, which helped spark off the Government's call to Lord Rothschild to review the whole of the public research system.

The Rothschild reforms, especially the transfer of funds from three of the five research councils to customer departments, are now again under review in a study for the advisory board by Sir Ronald Mason. Relations between the ARC and its customer department are sure to loom large in Sir Ronald's inquiry — the council receives a larger share of its income from commissioned work than the others, which came to £44m out of a total budget of £96m last year.

Sir Ronald will report at the crucial moment for the ARC, when this year's overall forward look is being finalized. The cuts in the council's share of the science budget proposed last year do not take effect until 1984/85. This gave the ARC the chance to fight a rearguard action against the recommendation, beginning with Dr Ralph Riley, the council's secretary, who added a dissonant note to the original report.

The main problem in coming with the reduction — £1.6m suggested for 1984/85, rising to £3.6m the year after — lies in the ARC's high spending on its own institutes. Since it was founded in 1931, the council has been given control over 22 institutes in England and Wales alone, some of them with strong research traditions going back to the nineteenth century.

Their relative autonomy makes changing the ARC's overall direction about as easy as turning a supertanker around in a gale. But the ABRC stressed that the council should find room for several new research priorities, including genetic engineering in animals, biotechnology and vaccine production, at the same time as preparing to trim its expenditure.

In his original appendix to the forward look, Dr Riley estimated that 300 or 200 of them scientists would have to go by 1986. The figure has since been increased.

The council decided that the best strategy was to show strong support for the new programmes and to plan for them on a tighter budget. The projection put before the advisory board last year said that savings of £7m would be needed by 1986 in order for new work on top of £30m needed to keep in line

with current cash allocations.

The council laid out the implications of this earlier this year. "Reductions of this magnitude cannot be achieved solely by reducing recruitment, deferring capital expenditure or research grants to universities," it said. "More radical steps will be necessary, involving major reduction in the restructuring of programmes. Important research work of considerable scientific merit and agricultural relevance will cease."

This would mean a staff loss of perhaps 500, almost certainly involving compulsory redundancy and site closures. The scale of these changes means that the response to the other reports which have commented on the agricultural research service is of less immediate concern to the ARC than the crucial decision on this year's advice from the advisory board to Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, expected in October. Council members are well used to hearing suggestions for reorganizing the whole system.

Nevertheless, the other reports, most notably from the Ministry of Agriculture's own main advisory body on research and development, add up to a formidable catalogue of complaints against both the ARC and the ministry. This can hardly have helped the ARC's case.

One abiding issue is the almost baroque complexity of the whole agricultural research system. Even one of the ARC's senior scientific advisers, Dr Tito Ullrich, began an article describing the council's work in the *Biologist* earlier this year with a disarming admission. "The ARC is one of those very British institutions which, when one tries to explain its organization to a visitor, emerges as marvelously illogical and more or less incomprehensible," he wrote. "Scarcely a recipe for survival under a cost-cutting government."

In fact, the ARC itself has made major changes in its headquarters structure this year, giving three divisions — plants and soils, animals and response — to yet another report, last September, from the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development. This criticized the council and the Ministry of Agriculture for failing to stimulate food research, especially in universities.

The ACARD report, from the second main Government advisory committee on research, underlined the ARC's special position among the research councils in being tied to a major industry. The ARC is, in effect, an applied research outfit competing for funds with councils with a stronger responsibility for fundamental research.

Changes in the agriculture and food industry lie behind much of the current pressure on the agricultural research system. The industry, which accounted for one fifth of consumer spending — approaching £30 billion — last year, is faced with a stagnant market, with profits increasingly the preserve of retailers rather than farmers or food processors. The ACARD report was heavily influenced by a strong lobby seeking a transfer of Government research funds from agriculture to food processing, and this has helped open up the whole question of priorities for agriculture and food research and development.

One product of the ARC's responsibility for food and crop research is that the council is subject to scrutiny by the clumsily named Joint Consultative Organization for Agriculture and Food (JCOC), which advises the government on the priorities of research in the field. The JCOC itself has been reorganized recently, and its presiding board decided research policy by assessing existing work as reported in June 1982, that there was no policy to assess, in the sense of a coordinated set of criteria for fixing priorities.

This, the board felt, explained the problem: the ARC was having to reshape its programme. It was no good having the other priorities in agriculture, which was also looking at agricultural research and development. Between the lines of the first JCOC report, it was already clear that



Red deer hinds (top) feeding at Glensnaugh Deer Farm; (above left) testing a tractor on an artificial bank; (intensive housing for ducks.

the European Community's butter and beef mountains were going to loom large over the future of the ARC.

The University Grants Committee shared the JCOC board's concern about the absence of a coherent policy and was especially anxious to increase the amount spent by the ARC and the Ministry of Agriculture in universities. This fitted in well with JCOC thinking and the two organizations issued a brief joint paper in February this year arguing that universities were more flexible and better geared to short-term research projects than institutes. But in all this, the JCOC was only flanking its muscles for its most sustained bout of bureaucratic-bashing, in April this year. In its paper "Organization of research and development for the agriculture and food industries" the board proposed a sweeping reorganization of the entire system.

Its description of the present arrangements ran the gamut of criticism from "ponderous and unwieldy" through "inefficiency" to the need for a "more professional approach". The report judged that both the ministry and the ARC had too many people in expensive London offices, that there was duplication of effort in administration, but still poor control over research programmes.

There was too little scope for the food industry to influence research choices, and in any case researchers were too set in their ways. "The incentives to an aging scientific staff to be mobile, and to seek retraining for new work, are too few," the report added ominously. The only part of the system the JCOC felt worked well was in Scotland, where the Scottish Department of Agriculture and Fisheries worked very well with institutes and universities north of the border.

The solution proposed in the report was a new, unified research organization, outside London. In spite of the scientists' suggested new body, would be funded entirely by the government, it would be a new authority, not a committee. The JCOC's original idea, which would have a board of directors, to make policy and parcel money out to institutes, universities, research associations and private sector laboratories.

The JCOC board then had a stroke of good luck. Their paper was produced only at the behest of the House of Commons Select Committee on Agriculture, which was also looking at agricultural research and development. Very soon after the JCOC paper was finished, the select committee's

inquiry was halted by the election announcement. As a result, the conclusions of their hastily-drafted report are very similar to the JCOC board's recommendations, but for the idea that the new research and development authority should be funded jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the DES.

The select committee report bolstered the case for change, although the Ministry of Agriculture was new the main villain of the piece. The problem, once again, was policymaking. Within the ministry, research priorities are decided by the Minister on the advice of two chief scientists, one responsible for fisheries and food and one for agriculture and horticulture. Their preferences are then channelled through no less than 17 permanent commissions, on subjects ranging from soil science to feed, which put out research contracts.

The ARC came out of the select committee scrutiny rather better. In particular, their report sympathized with Dr Riley's argument that the Advisory Board for the Research Councils exceeded its remit with the 1982 recommendations. This argument was a neat attempt to turn the ARC's applied research to advantage.

According to Dr Riley: "In recommending a reduction of the commitment to agricultural, horticultural and food research, the ABRC were recommending something which was beyond the realms simply of scientific priorities." Since the ARC was responsible for the main research capability of an important sector of the economy, any judgment about a reduction of ARC's activity was a matter for the Government, he argued.

However, while the select committee endorsed this view, their support for ARC appeared to stem mainly from a wish to stop the overall budget being cut. The committee still put forward a new organization which would call although their role into question, looks more like a clone of the existing council than the JCOC's original idea. The MPs were convinced the whole system needed reforming. Mr Richard Body MP, a member of the committee and himself a farmer, exploded: "It's grown up like Topsy with no overall plan or strategy. Professors get bees in their bonnets and if they know how to use the ministry of agriculture or the DES systems they get the money. There's got to be a change to a more coordinated policy." He argued that applied research should be done commercially and basic research taken back into the universities.

For its part, the council appears to have set its face against the kind of planning advocated by the JCOC and the MPs. In evidence to the select committee, the ARC described its overall aims as "to advance scientific knowledge relevant to food supply, and to improve this knowledge to increase the efficiency of the agricultural, horticultural and food industries and to safeguard and improve the quality of food."

But this is no longer true. As Professor Colin Spedding of Reading University's centre for agricultural strategy points out in a book on British science policy to be published later this year by Longmans, "such a policy does not suggest how priorities can be determined between competing research proposals."

The ARC has made some changes to take account of this, notably with a strategic planning system due to operate from this autumn. But Dr Riley takes issue with "those who believe that the pattern of research should reflect public policies for the agricultural and food industries."

In his Bernal lecture earlier this year, he defended the record of agricultural research, which has undoubtedly been highly successful in increasing yields per acre. This was because the scientists had been allowed to get on with the job. National needs, political opinions, economic objectives and global food supply and demand change too fast to fit in with the relatively slow progress of research, he argued. The best policy was to pursue basic science which provided a range of technological options for future generations.

Ne one disputes the excellence of the ARC's work in such fields as plant breeding and genetic engineering, animal disease and pesticide application. Even so, the argument is unlikely to satisfy its critics.

Professor Spedding, for instance, believes the council is too firmly wedded to basic science. He points out that agriculture involves many disciplines — looking at people, crops, soil, the stock, management and economics. The ARC, though, is dominated by scientists, who are only interested in one component of agriculture — science.

So the positions on the future of agricultural research are now starkly divided. The outcome is still uncertain, but the combination of a government minister at the ministry of agriculture, Mr Michael J. G. Hill, a new permanent secretary and further a public spending cuts in prospect will mean that the ARC's money in the Government's overall expenditure of £140m for agriculture and food research and development moves high up the agenda. The ministry has already trimmed its budget for applied work commissioned by the ARC by £240,000 this summer in the latest round of cuts, decreasing the council's room for manoeuvre still further.

The JCOC is certain to press for its recommendations to be accepted, and it will be hard for the ministry to dismiss the work of its main advisers without calling their role into question. Mr Oscar Colburn, the influential farmer who chairs the JCOC board, says that there must be a response soon. Whatever the outcome, it is safe to predict that more money will go into food and agriculture research in the near future.

The scale of this transfer of funds will depend on the prominence given to food research and biotechnology in the new arrangements. This is harder to forecast. While the food manufacturers' lobby helped to fuel the debate on research priorities, some Conservative MPs argue that there is no reason why such a large industry should have its research and development subsidised by the Government.

The argument is important for universities because for more traditional agricultural research, a farm is the equivalent of the "well-fused" laboratory which university funding is supposed to provide under the dual support system.

This is one reason the ARC has so many institutes. The more money which goes into work which does not need much expensive land, the more likely it is to find its way out of the institutes and into university departments. The question then is whether the ARC and the ministry are allowed to make a gradual shift, or whether they are forced to move quickly, perhaps closing institutes altogether.

Next week: fighting back.

## Eager pupils in the study of stardom

Hard work, hard floors and hard up — Dan Gillan on the Fringe students

An attempt to assess student involvement in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe rapidly develops into an exploration of the city's normally uncharted halls, cellars and vacant places. Any space large enough to contain more than 30 seats and a scaffold stage is pressed into service.

The raw figures explain the pressure on resources — nearly 500 groups are presenting about 800 shows at nearly 100 venues. Of the performers involved, some 60 per cent are professionals, the rest amateurs, among whom are at least 70 student groups from the UK and abroad, presenting in all manner of productions and exhibitions, which will attract an estimated half a million ticket sales.

The usual assertion that the Fringe is an anything-goes circus of energetic chaos where student groups or individuals casually turn up "to do their thing" is quickly exploded on closer examination. A great deal of time, effort and organization goes into participation. Even old hands like the Cambridge Mummies, who have won a firm following over the years, started their preparations back in February. This year they won a Fringe First award for *Circle*, adapted from Joyce's *Ulysses*, and balanced that with *Grook*, *King of Clowns* and *Hard Times For These Times*, after Dickens, hoping for a broad appeal.

They need audiences because the five shows presented last year left them with a considerable debt, in spite of a reputation which attracts commercial sponsorship. Unfortunately, beneath the greasepaint, the creative flair and the enthusiasm, money matters rule and can KO next year's visit for those who don't get their sums right.

First-timers Keble University Drama Group offering *Glass Menagerie* and *Fracture* (an alternative *Hamlet*), assumed they would get no audience and raised money with a sponsored dance marathon, jumble sales and discos. Fortunately, they were far too pessimistic and are attracting about 100

customers per show. They also received a very favourable review which found *The Glass Menagerie* an inherent dramatic purpose, "by a superb cast of actors who were happy to admit that one of their purposes in coming to the fringe was to improve their standing with 'the folks at home'." Hopefully, this sort of reception will have the desired effect, ensuring more financial support next year.

Show budgets do not usually cover individual expenses, these have to be found with the vague prospect of a dividend if the season proves profitable. With rent alone as high as £20 per week, even six in a room, students may find themselves in harem clubbers (they come large in Edinburgh) or an actual rather than proverbial kitchen floor.

When there are as many as 18 migrant Theatres in a flat, all requiring food or a cup of coffee at any time of day or night, it is not surprising to hear occasional reports of exhaustion and frayed tempers. Morale is usually high in spite of domestic circumstances, though there is a general admission, though sometimes grudging, that the whole exercise can be tedious and tedious, while other groups complain somewhat bitterly about lack of cooperation and even sympathy from their tutors or departments. This reluctance apparently stems partly from the performance of drama or music as opposed to critical appreciation, and partly from the unadvised competition for a student's time and energy which involvement in performance entails.

One ex-undergraduate from East Anglia, new with the National Student Theatre Company attracted the ultimate penalty: because of his keenness on performing, he failed his first year exams in French and Social Anthropology and had to leave. A student still studying drama roundly condemned the purely academic approach — "There are a lot of people who've written papers and dramatic commentaries on plays and think because

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**research and discovery**

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English towns are not proud of their prisons, and would not be proud of any prison, however good it might be. Prisons are a source of employment and income and for those reasons a town might officially express alarm at the prospect of losing its nick. But for many residents the prison is a bit of an embarrassment, it lowers the tone and property values, and frightens the nervous. So if the government proposes to build a prison anywhere, rate-payers protest - just as they do if it is proposed to open an institution for the handicapped of any sort.

Of course, there would be some protest against any new institution, for the English, and not only the English, are conservative. Local prisons get their workers locally, though not their more senior staff, as they do many of the prisoners themselves. Some prisoners are allowed out to work, some members of the public are allowed in to teach or otherwise help to rehabilitate the inmates, or to visit relations and friends.

Whatever the economic reality then, the social reality, not surprisingly, is that relations between local prisons and towns are not strong or particularly fruitful, and there is suspicion and hostility on either side. If you wish to discuss these matters with your local prison, you will probably find, as I have, that no one will be pleased to talk to you, any talk will involve much setting up and delay, and you will be referred to the Home Office.

Relations between universities and their towns, which should be so much stronger and better, are, if anything, worse. They don't have to shut people out. Yet, for the most part, they do. They have done very little to create or welcome interest and inquiries from the town. What they advertise to the public is the significantly named "open lecture" and cultural events.

Top jobs at universities don't go to locals of course, nor could they. The locals are for the most part their underworkers, and domestics for them and the students. They are not proud of their positions, and they are, many of them, puzzled, resentful, and sometimes scandalized by the activities - and ineffectuality - of those they serve. Local youth tend to choose not to go to their local university and not to go because they want to get away from home or because their local doesn't offer the courses they want, but because they hold it to some contempt. They feel sure that there are better universities elsewhere - and who or what gives them that idea?

When I started playing cricket for a local team - rather than one of the several university sides I could have played for, and one of which I did play for, until I discovered that it did not play village sides but "better" schools for the most part and "better" class sides from further away - my new teammates' such lost their nervousness of me and started to attack the university and me, on a variety of counts.

They didn't like foreigners, especially those who were identifiable and literally foreign, they didn't like students, they didn't like the way the university had tried to buy the site at agricultural rates with the intention of building on it, and were delighted when the local owners won their case against Kent University in the courts. Of course, those who realized that they would ultimately be footing the increased bill didn't like that either. When they discovered how ordinary I was - especially at cricket - we settled down to a teasing relationship that has scarcely changed over nearly 20 years.

Like the rest of them up there, I don't do any work and am paid vast sums for not doing so. When I'm not in California, I'm enjoying the long vacation, my response that they are philistines leaves them gutted. They are some of them - my friends, but I would be astonished if any of them ever got into Kent. Getting into a bank, or a building society office, or rarely, another university is what they are after.

Some readers may concede that relations between English universities and the communities of which they are a part, were not good. Oxford's town-and-gown troubles, even the very term, were witness to that. But I think that they would say that with the advent of the civic universities there has been improvement and the new universities have improved them still further. This is an illusion, even if it has been an extraordinary and distressing illusion. The new universities

## Within these ivory walls

Do universities shut out the local community? Colin Radford argues that the barriers must come tumbling down

Oxford academic life: "I cannot remember ever meeting a local during seven years at Oxford, at high table, or in the common rooms, let alone in the lecture room or study."

made things worse.

Oxford's relationship with the towns they dominate is typified by All Souls College. The two sides it presents to the streets are not windowless but the small windows are discreetly barred. Access is through a small door, some five or ten yards behind which is a lengthy notice, unseen by most passers-by and illegible to all but the long-sighted, saying when visitors may look at the outside of the buildings and the quads - provided they keep quiet. It ends with the word "Private". What makes All Souls' important is not for the outsider.

But what do I want? Haven't I heard of security? And how could dons and undergraduates get on with their work if anyone could come in *ad libitum*? They could, and should, and I want outsiders to visit these institutions for the purpose of learning. Locals don't visit or attend in that capacity and I cannot remember ever meeting a local during seven years at Oxford, at high table, or in the common rooms, let alone in the lecture room or study.

I was an undergraduate at the London School of Economics. What educational institution could match the variety displayed by staff and students? Coming from a small country grammar school, I was amazed and delighted by this human cornucopia. But before going up to university, I already had the idea that universities were rather like monasteries. I saw them as closed, elite, communities, whose members were devoted to an ostensible end -



learning, education - but, like monasteries, also and covertly devoted to a further end. In this case it was the pursuit of wealth, power and fame. I may have been naive - and I was naive - but in one way, and crucially, I was right. Despite the rich diversity of students and despite its particular history, the LSE was closed to its locals as a place to learn. I never met one who wasn't a porter or a cleaner. I never met in lectures or classes anyone but accredited students working for degrees or diplomas. And when I once asked if I might bring a visitor to a class, my tutor said that the regulations did not permit it.

Bristol is perhaps a more characteristic civic university and it happens to be my home town where I went to do postgraduate work. That enormous, truncated, neo-gothic tower rises at the top of Park Street, dominates the city skyline and locals cannot help being aware of its existence. It was built with Will's tobacco money, and Bristolians, particularly the elderly ones, feel a pride in what they feel is theirs. The *Post and The World* (now folded) enthusiastically reported "universally" that Bristol is not collegiate and at about 4.30 pm the building in Park Street died. All activity except reading in the library ceased and that was closed to the public anyway. If any local had wanted to learn something at the university, he certainly could not have done so if he had been working normal hours. Moreover, it was at Bristol that I learned to be patronizing towards members of such places as Redlands Training College, whom in any case I never met. My sister-in-law, who had attended a local teachers' training college, told me that her contact with the university consisted in going to the university dance. As for the schools: no Marx for all the contact we had with it or thought of having with it. The only other member of my family who ever got inside the university was an aunt and she did so to clean. And I had to make strong, self-congratulatory efforts to not avoid greeting her as she scurried the steps. She was a very sharp lady, but if anyone had suggested to me - or her - that she might have learned something at the university or might have had something to give it, apart from her labours, we would both have thought her was joking. Far not joking, but things have not changed significantly at Bristol or at any other university in England.

Are things better at the new universities? The relationship is less sterile, but it was not hardly fruitful. We now

offer part-time degrees, which tend to be taken by locals and arrange activities like history day schools, but they have not been successful because the university staff have not properly prepared for them and local opinion is confirmed. Laboratories stocked with old equipment have recently been made available for the odd day's use by local schools. Institutionalized relationships have developed with local education colleges, though recent cuts have tended to undermine them. But I should, and could, be so much more than this. As to attitudes, they are worse than elsewhere. Why?

First, because the new universities are still fairly new and were not wanted in the first place. In the case of Kent, Herne Bay wanted the university - all those landladies had increasing space to occupy and at the right times of year. But Canterbury had the cathedral. As a result, many students commute from Herne Bay and resort beyond.

Second, the new universities are never in the towns that often did not want them. Their towers are on the hills outside the town. The locals may be pleased, but that one and a half to two miles encloses and reinforces the feelings of separatism and provides a real obstacle to intercourse, especially to those who don't have cars. Their location is a consequence of a University Grants Committee fiat which declared that new universities must purchase a site of at least 200 acres.

I believe the intention was to provide an integrated campus where students could work, live and play, and to avoid bricks. Given the prior attitude of the towns, this has fostered hostility, and there have been fights and vandalism from both sides. Oxford and Cambridge largely got over this centuries ago and the civic universities have mainly angered those gentle folk who are concerned for the architecture and appearance of the towns they love, which so many civic universities have desecrated.

What can be done to change these attitudes and practices? I believe that all courses at universities should be open to this sense: anyone should be allowed to attend lectures and seminars. If it is said that we couldn't do this because we lack room, this would be true only of the offer-revealed and helped to create a large demand. And if it did, then we should literally find room or make it.

Some might claim that the presence of large numbers of "visitors" would be disruptive. Why? They are not in the United States, or Australia, where large numbers "sit in" on courses, i.e. do not take them for "credit". In any case, a simple rule would take care of

any such problem. Such students would not be allowed to ask questions, unless permitted to do so by the teacher. And of course, they would be writing essays. An almost reasonable bonus would be that degree students would see verbal contributions to essay writing as privileges and a mark of status. How marvelous that would be, and how exhilarating to teach the students!

All courses should be advertised in the local papers, public libraries, schools, etc. The invitation should be large and clear, and courses especially suited for certain groups, e.g. teachers or A level students, should be identified. We should have to, and should make special efforts, including visits, to involve pupils and staff at secondary modern and technical schools, and technical colleges. Transport facilities should be arranged to enable those who want to go to their university to do so. Courses should be taught not only in the day but the evening, to make them available to those in work. There is no (sufficient) reason why university staff and students should not do some of their class work in the evenings. We are provincial in not doing so.

Some might object to these suggestions on the grounds that they might be ineffective. And then wouldn't we be faced with hordes of formally unqualified students, having had a taste of university, but no qualifications, wanting to get in on a formal basis? I would hope so - and those who had seen a sufficient number of courses might be allowed to sit an exam, the passing of which would allow them to omit the first degree year. That would be a saving.

But could we cope? Of course, though that end how we cope would require political decisions. But having to cope is exactly what is required. We are a philistine, under-educated, unproductive, class-ridden society, divided into officers and other ranks. Improving attitudes to knowledge and making university education generally available are necessary to change this.

I would also look for ways of encouraging school students to apply to their local university. Perhaps it might be a non-Universities Council on Admissions option, except that this might identify them as less able and so (wrongly) the university's less good. But this needn't be a problem. For if the Government presses on with its privatization of the universities, more parents will decide for the offspring they finance and send them where it is cheapest.

But this is not all I want. University departments, especially of science and modern languages, have so much knowledge and skill to offer local firms. It is impossible to know what the scientists are doing, but the modern language departments who do work have a expertise that has never been marketed.

My final suggestion is more difficult to implement, but most important. Universities have departments of history of art, but not departments of art. The results of this separation cannot help either, and their coming together would be mutually instructive and enjoyable. The same goes for the other arts and also for technology. Universities teach, e.g. civil engineering, but no site work, including such basic skills as knocking up cement. The failure to integrate the teaching of various skills helps to maintain the division between those who work with their brains and hand, mutual suspicion, ignorance and contempt. We have laboratories for bad engineering. We have laboratories for good engineering. We have laboratories who don't have time for that kind of work. England's most efficient and cherished production is of persons who see each other as jobs or bits, and they are not too mistaken.

Universities are presently preoccupied with saving themselves from ruin threatened by recent cuts and are filling their places with students who can pay, including an increasing number from abroad. If that is all they do, the separation of English universities from their part of England will be virtually complete - and, tragically, it will not be long before the universities will become so distorted and cynical that they will get less attractive to those on whom they are increasingly coming to rely. But before that happens, locals will know that their universities regard them as vandals, and to keep them out, the ivory towers will need crenellated curtain walls. All Souls, of course, already has them.

The author is reader in philosophy at the University of Kent.

## BOOKS

### Popular appeal of Popper's message

by David Papineau

Postscript to "The Logic of Scientific Discovery" by Karl R. Popper, edited by W. W. Bartley III. Volume one: Realism and the Aim of Science. Hutchinson, £30.00. ISBN 009 1514509.

Volume two: The Open Universe: an argument for Indeterminism. Hutchinson, £15.00. ISBN 009 1461804.

Volume three: Quantum Theory and the Schism in Physics. Hutchinson, £15.00. ISBN 009 1461707.

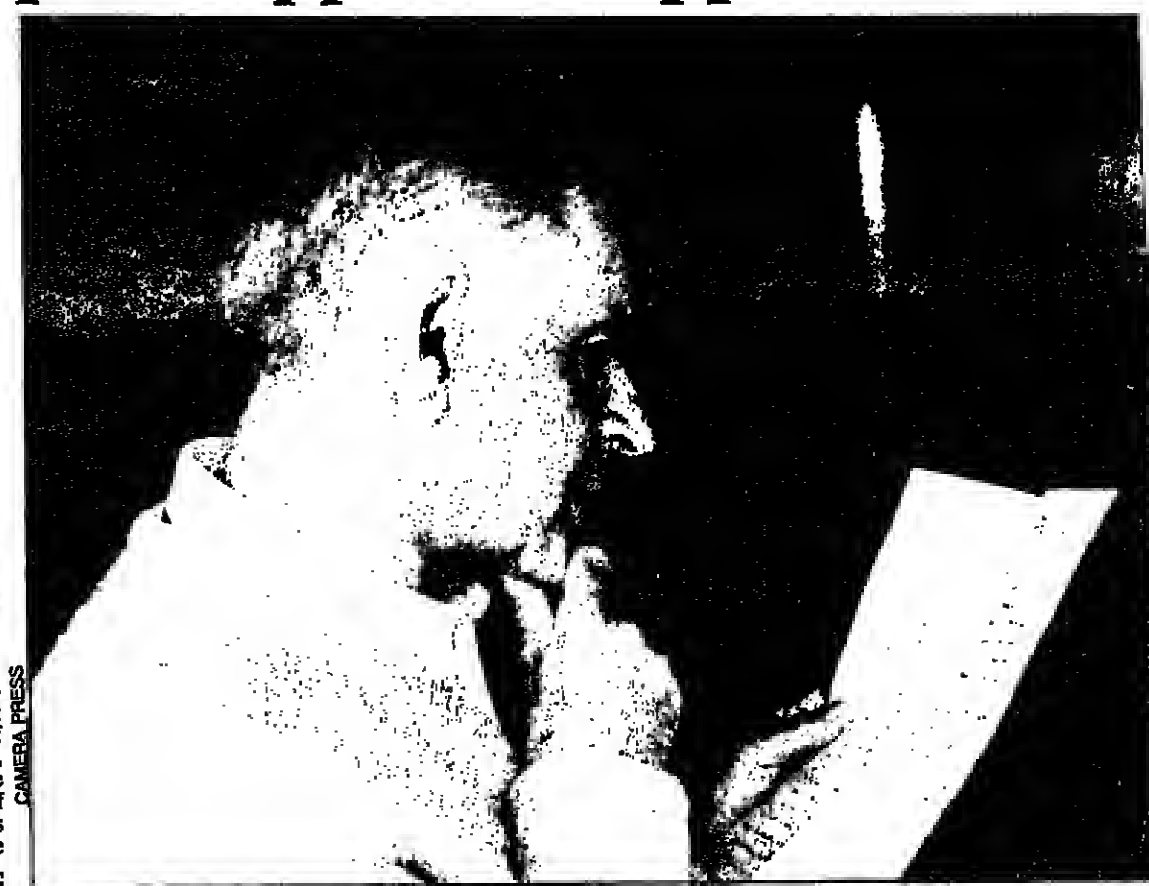
Many people, even today, take it that science somehow proves its conclusions beyond any possibility of doubt. But this attitude has been difficult to sustain since Einstein showed at the turn of the century that certain long-accepted assumptions of Newtonian science were in error.

Karl Popper's response to the Einsteinian revolution is to accept that science is, indeed, quite incapable of proving its results. After all, he says, didn't Hume show long ago that, since science's evidence always consists of past observations, and since it is always in principle possible that the future might fail to conform to past patterns, it is hopeless to try to infer universal scientific theories inductively from observational evidence? It is true that Hume's problem of induction was for long regarded as something of a logical oddity: even if it was not clear exactly how the trick was done, did not the example of Newtonian science show that science somehow succeeded in proving its theories? But, according to Popper, we should now recognize that Hume was right all the time, and the trick isn't done at all. Even the best scientific theories are merely conjectures which might well turn out to be wrong in the end.

But what then is so good about science? If modern physics is just conjecture, then what makes it better than astrology, or spirit worship, or any other bad superstition? Popper's answer is that scientific theories are at least falsifiable. Even if we cannot prove scientific theories positively, at least they are stated in a precise and rigorous enough way for experiments to disprove them. Newtonian theory made exact predictions about various physical phenomena, and when some of those phenomena did not behave accordingly we knew that Newtonian theory was wrong.

Contemporary physics is similarly precise in its predictions, and for just that reason we shall no doubt discover in time that it too is mistaken. But the claims of astrology and spirit worship are far too loosely phrased for anything ever to force their proponents to admit that they are wrong. Indeed, accepts the Popper, once we recognize that falsifiability is the distinguishing mark of science, we should accept that such theories are more respectable but nevertheless non-predictive disciplines as Marxism and Freudianism are, notwithstanding any other merits they may have, certainly not sciences.

There are two fundamental objections to all this. First, we need to distinguish a weaker and a stronger sense in which one might except that science fails to prove its theories. The weaker sense is no simple matter: the current science implies that cynicism is fatal to humans, there could turn out to be cases where this does not hold good. This attitude is consistent with according a certain measure of trust to the findings of science, and with holding that, if you want to live, eating cyanide is not a good idea. But it is possible to be much more strongly sceptical about scientific theories. One can maintain that science is too "guided" to action whatsoever - that, for all science says, someone with a cyanide pill would be as well advised to believe it will increase their vitality and protect them against the common cold as to believe



Sir Karl Popper

it will kill them.

Popper is a sceptic about science in this second, stronger sense. Since he endorses Hume's views about induction, he has to allow that a theory which implies that the future will deviate from the past in some absurd way is as worthy of trust as any other. It is true that this fundamentally unscientific aspect of Popper's position has not always been obvious to his readers. For Popper does defend principles ("choose bold theories", "avoid *ad hoc* ones") which tend to rule out such deviant theories. But, as his critics have made increasingly clear, this merely pushes the problem back a stage - why should we trust the theories selected by these principles? And in this question Popper, as a good Humean, can give no answer.

But even if Popper still leaves us with the problem of induction, has he not at least succeeded in solving the "problem of demarcation"? Does not the focus on falsifiability at least show what distinguishes science from other less serious modes of thought? But here there is a second fundamental objection to Popper's work. Writers such as T. S. Kuhn, Paul Feyerabend and Imre Lakatos have shown in recent years that even the most precise and rigorous physical theories are in fact not falsifiable in any simple sense. No classical physicist would have his salt would have abandoned Newton's laws of motion simply because of the failure of some experimental prediction. For the data always need to be interpreted before we can decide on their significance. "Were the instruments working?" "Had all relevant forces been taken into account?"

Behind such interpretations are further bits of theory - theories about how the instruments work, theories about what forces will be present in what circumstances. And so, when a prediction fails, it is always possible, and in general entirely sensible, to query such bits of interpreting theory, rather than reject such fundamental principles as the laws of motion. The central assumptions of Newtonian physics were no more falsifiable than those of Marxism or Freudianism or, for that matter, of astrology or spirit worship. Perhaps there is something that distinguishes serious science from less worthy modes of thought. And perhaps it is something to do with their being subject to serious critical scientific theories. One can maintain that science is too "guided" to action whatsoever - that, for all science says, someone with a cyanide pill would be as well advised to believe it will increase their vitality and protect them against the common cold as to believe

of assorted material, mostly written in the fifties but not previously published, elaborating and refining various characteristic Popperian themes. Volume one, the largest of the three, deals with demarcation, induction and probability. Volume two contains Popper's arguments against Laplacean determinism. And the final volume is about the interpretation of quantum mechanics, and against what Popper sees as a dangerous subjectivist trend in modern physics. Although there is, as you might expect, much in the way of cogent analysis, an awful lot of it is extremely familiar, and the only people I can imagine wading through it all are those whose mission requires the accurate quoting of Popperian chapter and verse.

Many topics are covered, but a lot of them are distinctly passé. Questions that were interesting in the fifties have long since been resolved, and the debate has moved on to new ground. Similarly, most of Popper's observations seem dated, respectable but essentially ephemeral contributions to ephemeral controversies. There are, it is true, various prefaces and sidebars on subjects that are still of live interest. But these too are disappointing. In particular, I would have expected a more substantial response to criticisms of the ideas about falsification and induction that lie at the centre of Popper's thinking. Although Popper does touch on these criticisms in some of the newer material in these volumes, he does not seem entirely to appreciate their force, nor to have any clear idea of how to deal with them.

A more interesting question raised by the publication of these volumes is not so much philosophical as sociological: why are there so many people who will be prepared to read them? Despite increasingly well-known criticism, Popper is undoubtedly a distinguished and significant philosopher. But there are probably a few dozen equally distinguished and significant philosophers alive today, and none of them have the same plaudits of evangelical supporters that Popper does.

Up to a point this phenomenon can be explained in institutional terms. Philosophy of science is a somewhat unattractive subject. It is a branch of philosophy, but philosophy, especially in this country, is largely practised by people with a radically non-scientific education and a natural suspicion of the matters scientific. Scientists, on the other hand, often regard comment on

their activities by outsiders as unfounded and unwarranted intrusion. Those who have felt, in the face of this resistance, that philosophy of science is nevertheless a subject worthy of recognition have had an effective champion in Popper: in the years since the war Popper has done as much as anybody to create a place for philosophy of science within the academic establishment.

Popper's place in the vanguard of this struggle has had a significant effect on attitudes to his work. Enthusiasm for the philosophy of science has got muddled up with enthusiasm for Popper, and those working within the subject have often seemed to have difficulty distinguishing criticisms of Popper from attacks on their professional standing. To some extent this is a local phenomenon: it is noteworthy that in the United States, where there is less distance between the two cultures, and philosophy of science is happily accepted as a normal part of the curriculum, Popper has been far less revered than here.

Certainly among philosophers working (or trained) on this side of the Atlantic there has been a level of commitment to Popper that calls for explanation more in terms of loyalty and emotion than in terms of rational evaluation. And this diagnosis gains support from the imputations of backsliding and betrayal that have been directed at those who have sought to distance themselves from Popper's advocacy of open and rigorous criticism, has often been regarded as above criticism by his followers. And there has been something rather funny in the spectacle of the Popperian tradition succumbing to just the kind of acrimonious schisms most often associated with the followers of Marx and Freud.

In recent years, because of the kinds of criticisms I have discussed, the departures from the Popperian camp have been more and more frequent, and there are probably not that many professional Popperians left today. But there are still plenty of non-professional followers. Popper's role as the standard-bearer for academic philosophy of science is only part of the story. Many enthusiasts have no particular connexion with professional philosophy of science, and the Popper phenomenon spreads far beyond academic circles. In order to account for these extramural Popperians we need to turn from his institutional standing and look instead at certain aspects of his writings.

One might be tempted here to compare Popper with Bertrand Russell. Russell's enormous general popularity of twenty years ago was due to his political and social views rather than his more technical work in logic and epistemology. Perhaps Popper's appeal is similarly to be found in his political philosophy rather than in his explanation of science. However, this explanation does not really fit Popper. The majority of extramural Popperians are scientists of one sort or another (especially if we include scientists *manqué* and retired). And what in particular they like about Popper are his views about science, not his views about society. The attraction of Popper's philosophy of science for these people is that he portrays science as first, not boring and second, not too difficult.

The conventional view of science represents scientists as not particularly glorified engineers. They need to acquire a high level of demanding expertise but once they have done so their activities are an essentially mechanical matter of conducting experiments and registering the consequences. Popper reverses this picture entirely. What makes a good scientist is imagination and insight, not care and concentration. The important advances in science come from the creative invention of original hypotheses rather than from any mechanical extrapolation of experimental results. Popper tells scientists that they are entitled to hold up their heads among the traditionally more glamorous creative professions. What is more, he explains that the scientific imagination is not the result of any specialist training. Invention is an essentially irrational business. There is no logic of discovery, no set of arcane instructions for constructing hypotheses. Indeed there is nothing much to be said about where good scientific ideas come from. Popper makes it possible for anybody to hope to have them.

The popular appeal of Popper's message gets latently reinforced by the way he delivers it. For a start, there is the cover (if not exactly subtle) suggestion that Popper's own work is of a piece with the great advances of twentieth-century science, conveyed by name-dropping mention of the occasions when he discussed this and that difficulty distinguishing criticisms of Popper from attacks on their professional standing. To some extent this is a local phenomenon: it is noteworthy that in the United States, where there is less distance between the two cultures, and philosophy of science is happily accepted as a normal part of the curriculum, Popper has been far less revered than here.

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David Papineau is lecturer in the history and philosophy of science at the University of Cambridge.



**Ian Scott-Kilvert**

*Ian Scott-Kilvert was formerly director of literature at the British Council.*

Richard A. Lanham's book *The Motives of Eloquence: literary rhetoric in the Renaissance* has been issued as paperback by Yale University Press.



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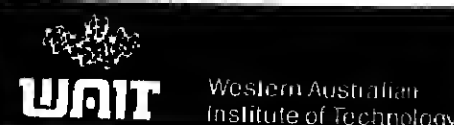












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In addition to providing academic and professional leadership for the efficient conduct of the School, the Head will be required to teach in an area of expertise and provide leadership in the maintenance and development of industrial consultancies, projects and research, particularly through the State's proposed Technology Park and Product Innovation Centre.

The successful applicant will have a strong academic and professional background in Mechanical Engineering, substantial industrial experience, including mechanical design and administrative experience at a senior level.

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Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for appointment to the following post.

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Lecturer required to teach English language and some Methodology of English language teaching to undergraduate teacher trainees at the university.

Applications invited from honours graduates with a recent post-graduate qualification in applied linguistics and relevant ESL teaching experience overseas, preferably in Africa. Some teacher-training experience would also be an advantage.

The initial appointment will be on a 3 year contract. Salary on the scale R12 657 - 22 173 (£1 = R1.75 at current rates). Application forms and further details from: Dr. R. Eilla, St. Mary's College, Waldergrove Road, Twickenham, Middlesex - England to reach him on or before 30 September 1983. N.B. Telephone 01-8771594 for application forms.

Registrar, UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

### UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN Isidore and Theresa Cohen Chair of Hebrew Studies

Applications are invited for this chair for appointment on 1 January 1984 or as soon as possible thereafter. The scope of teaching and research within the Department of Hebrew Studies includes Hebrew literature, language and culture from the biblical times to the present. Preference will be given to candidates who show evidence of scholarship in the area of Hebrew language and literature.

Appointment will be made irrespective of sex, race or religion, and according to qualifications and experience on the salary scale R23 108-24 045 x 1.035-30 255 p.a. In addition a service bonus of nearly one month's salary is payable annually. The salary will be augmented for the first five years by R1 000 p.a. contributed by a leading Jewish family, and life may be considered thereafter. Staff benefits include 75% remission of tuition fees for dependants at UCT, generous research leave, a housing subsidy scheme under certain conditions, a pension fund and medical aid and group life insurance schemes.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, stating research interests and publications, experience, present salary, the date duty could be assumed and the names and addresses of three referees.

Further information should be obtained either from the Secretary, SA Universities Office, Olden House, 278 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HE, or from the Registrar (Attention: Appointments Office), Department E/284, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa, by whom applications should be received not later than 31 October 1983.

The University's policy is not to discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or religion. Further information on the implementation of this policy is obtainable on request.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN Lecturer in Linguistics

Applications are invited for this above post vacant from 1 January 1984. Appointment will be made according to qualifications and experience on the salary scale R23 108-24 045 x 1.035-30 255 p.a. In addition a service bonus of nearly one month's salary is payable annually.

Applicants should be qualified to teach lower-level undergraduate general linguistics, and to teach syntax and semantics to honours level. A research interest in, and ability to undertake postgraduate supervision in the latter two fields may be an advantage. Staff benefits include 75% remission of tuition fees for dependants, generous research leave, a housing subsidy scheme under certain conditions, a pension fund, medical aid, and group life insurance.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, stating present salary, research interests and publications, the date duty could be assumed, and the names and addresses of three referees whom the University may approach.

Further information should be obtained either from the Secretary, SA Universities Office, Olden House, 278 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HE, or from the Registrar (Attention: Appointments Office), Department E/284, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa, by whom applications should be received not later than 31 October 1983.

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The following vacancy exists in the Hospitals Department of the Provincial Administration of the Cape of Good Hope.  
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**DUTIES:** The post has both hospital service and academic commitment. The hospital service commitment covers the development of advanced instrumentation and measurement techniques for use in health care and in medical research, and the design and development of hospital equipment and facilities generally, and, particularly, of aids for the disabled. Teaching is concentrated at postgraduate level.

The department has developed and is developing clinical service and research links with specific departments in the University/Hospital and while the successful candidate will be expected to provide support in these areas, he/she will be expected to develop ergonomics activities on a wider scale in both institutions. This includes, particularly, assistance with the planning of the equipment, facilities and environment in the new Groote Schuur Hospital, on which work started in February 1983, and further development of the teaching of ergonomics to the first students for which were enrolled in January 1983.

Additional information may be obtained from Professor G. G. Jacobs, Head, Department of Bio-Medical Engineering.

Application should be made (in duplicate) on the prescribed form (Staff 23) which is obtainable from the Medical Superintendent, Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory 7921. Completed application forms with curriculum vitae should be forwarded to the Medical Superintendent, Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory to reach her before 30 September 1983.

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### UNIVERSITY OF NATAL Department of Philosophy PIETERMARITZBURG SOUTH AFRICA

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the following post.  
**SENIOR LECTURER**

The successful applicant should have a postgraduate qualification in the field of Philosophy and be willing to teach the subjects of Logic and the Philosophy of Language and the Philosophy of Science. The successful applicant should also have a postgraduate qualification in the field of Philosophy of Science.

The salary will be in the range R18 567 - 24 045 per annum. The commanding salary will be dependent on the qualifications and/or experience of the successful applicant. In addition, an award of research leave will be made subject to Treasury regulations.

Application forms, full particulars of the post, and information on pension, medical aid, group insurance, staff housing, leave, and other benefits, are obtainable from the Registrar, University of Natal, P.O. Box 1700, Pietermaritzburg 3200. The Registrar's Office is open from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on weekdays. Applications should be submitted to the Registrar, University of Natal, P.O. Box 1700, Pietermaritzburg 3200, by 31 October 1983. Reference PHS 87/82.

### Overseas continued



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Research Scholars may assist for not more than three hours a week in the Departments to which they are attached for which they will be remunerated.

Application forms may be obtained from:

Mr Roland Sharma, Director  
NUS Overseas Office  
5 Chesham Street  
London SW1  
United Kingdom

The Registrar  
National University of Singapore  
Republic of Singapore 0511

Applications must be received by THE REGISTRAR, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE, REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE by 31 October 1983.

### Rhodes University Grahamstown, South Africa

Applicants are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the following post.  
**RESEARCH OFFICER - ROBOTICS**

The successful applicant should have a postgraduate qualification in the field of Robotics and be willing to teach the subjects of Robotics and the Philosophy of Science. The successful applicant should also have a postgraduate qualification in the field of Philosophy of Science.

1. Professor of Economics and Statistics  
2. Deputy Director/Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography  
3. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Applied Mathematics  
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Further information should be obtained either from the Secretary, SA Universities Office, Olden House, 278 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HE, or from the Registrar (Attention: Appointments Office), Department E/284, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa, by whom applications should be received not later than 31 October 1983.

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# Don's diary

## Friday

Arrived Quito after 27-hour trip, including nine hours in various transit lounges. (Must remember to question travel agent more closely next time he offers a special, cheap deal). Impressed to find special "International Psychology Conference" signposts at the small airport but discover I am the only one taking any notice of them. Conference counter eventually transports me to hotel.

Welcome at hotel by colleagues from Venezuela, quickly established it was eight years since we last met and proceeded to catch up on their research on community development. Over dinner (breakfast? given the six hour time change) in surprisingly cheap, upmarket indigenous restaurant, found the local cocktail, a pisco sour, turned out to be very pleasant. Begin to learn the real political problems of doing social research in Venezuela, meeting Keith Joseph seem almost benign.

## Saturday

Still on English time, so up early to join trip to native Indian market another 2000 feet up in the Andes. Notice feeling of light-headedness and slight headache. Can't decide if it's the 9,000 feet altitude of Quito, the effects of the journey or the extra pisco sour last night. Stood on the equator for group photograph, discussing the way such a tourist prospect would have been exploited in the US, but pleased it was only marked by a simple roadside plaque in Ecuador.

As we go higher in the Andes, grew expansive on developments in our research theories and methods. Tried to explain the use of regional hypotheses to interpret multi-dimensional scaling of questionnaire items to the English-speaking South Americans in the group, interspersed with discussion of local vegetation and the maribou trade route through the Andes. Bought considerable amount of Indian wall hangings and clothes in the market, bartering fountain pen along the way. Realized we have to buy another suitcase to take it all home. Had shoes polished in the main street, discovered they were a colour I did not remember seeing before.

## Sunday

Colleagues from New York emerged at breakfast and we agree to walk up into the Andes outside of the city. Now feel acclimatized and I am curious to see if they notice any ill-effects of the altitude. On the way up air reminded that US academics' experience of university politics is far more soul searing than my British experience, even with the UGC cuts. Am pleased to learn that colleagues are feeling their way towards more intensive methodologies, and they are intrigued by our own forays into those murky waters.

Attend opening ceremony of conference at the Parliament building. Get told off by guide for refusing to walk down 100 yards of red carpet between daintily blue uniformed guards. Surprised by vigour and brevity of opening speeches and the neat way the vice president of the republic linked the international conference on psychology to slogans about the freedom and progress of his people. Over whistles and nasty sweet champagne gathering returns. About six separate people corner me to ask detailed questions about presentations, usually confusing what I have said with what others said at the same session. Promise to send them all reprints.

## Monday

Discover left knee still weak from the fall in the Andes. Have sandals polished. Armed guards keep me from my lecture until I return with my conference badge. Eventually settle down to give lecture on the design of the therapeutic environment, with slow, tentative translation into Spanish. Initial audience of 20 or so intruders, 150 or so, to a hundred, when the South Americans hear there is

translation. Feel sure my jokes must work much better in translation. Attend interesting lecture on responsiveness in conversations. Make note to contact lecturer and get same help on our analysis of telephone calls. Hear "Grand Old Man" give a presentation on society organized on the experimental method. Delight to hear him questioned on how long psychologists could remain neutral professionals in such a context.

## Tuesday

Join symposium on large scale spatial cognition, entirely devoted to US and Canadian research. Put faces to a number of names and learn of one or two interesting developments against a background of remarkably tedious work. Main US contributors seem to have arrived the night before and to be planning to go off on vacation soon after the symposium. I am called on to comment on the presentations and find myself being much more critical than I had intended, but everyone seems to take it in a friendly spirit.

During the afternoon visit a craft museum which turned out to be selling everything on display, giving the place a vitality unknown in conventional museums. Explored further possibilities of Venezuelan colleagues coming to study with us and of exchange visits with US colleagues.

## Wednesday

Breakfast with senior administrator from Mexico City University and agree to ways in which we at Surrey could help them establish a graduate programme in environmental psychology. Horrified to discover that the university has about half a million students. Lunch with psychologist from Rana University and learn how it is possible to earn enough through gambling to pay your way through university. During afternoon taken on tour of the city by local planner. I am fascinated by the "habitation su-normal", solid brick and concrete built, illegal settlements on the edge of the city. Looking at them it is difficult to believe they have no planned or social organization, no water or policing. But the spirit of free enterprise allows them to buy in electricity, to establish shops and make use of good building materials.

## Thursday

Visit native market with Venezuelan and US colleagues. Sort out two different PhD proposals among the butchered meat, hens and pigs for sale. Clearly developments in the theory of place among the fruit and vegetables. Learn of interesting studies of mother child interactions in public places, among clothes stalls. Try to various Andean tribbles but none fit. Mother of British Council Ecuador scholar who cannot find a clinical psychology course in Britain makes contact through my guide. Discover that conference organizers are under attack from their left-wing colleagues for having too many speakers from the US.

## Friday

Meet British Council scholar's mother and promise to try to "help" on a return. Buy suitcase. Say farewells and thank you. About six separate people corner me to ask detailed questions about presentations, usually confusing what I have said with what others said at the same session. Promise to send them all reprints.

On flight back, by careful planning manage to get seat with leg room. (Film is same as that shown on the trip out.) Customs at Heathrow decide, for the first time over my experience, to search my luggage with a fine tooth comb. They obviously think I've been on an exotic trip somewhere. Can't think why.

## David Canter

The author is a lecturer in psychology at the University of Surrey and directed the MSc course in environmental psychology there.

# Celebration of the Festival

It is the critic's nightmare but a public joy. It would be hard to follow the official Edinburgh Festival: six operas, 20 orchestral concerts, 21 chamber concerts or recitals, two ballet companies, nine plays, as well as exhibitions and lectures, over three weeks. But to grasp the Fringe is beyond human possibility. Last year the Festival Society claimed that 460,000 tickets were sold for 7,202 performances by 494 participating groups and this year there are more than 500 groups in the programme.

Incidentally, last year's figures would give an average of 63.78 people attending each performance. Common sense would either suggest that tens of thousands of tickets are thrown away on reading *The Scotsman's* reviews or that huge numbers of purchasers simply get lost or else that the average and the median are very far apart.

And that is not all by any means. The new Book Festival is officially part of the Festival proper, but it has led an odd and merry life of its own in a huge marquee in Charlotte Square where the smell of chilled cheap white wine is stronger than that of binder's glue. It seems to stand on its own legs, more or less, with "meet the author" as staple fare, much as the large Film Festival does and the short but strident top-class Jazz Festival.

And that is not all by any means. The Fringe has for several years broken right out of the programme and the bourgeois restraints of the procession, even the new orthodoxy of a specified acting "space", quite simply into the streets. Most promenade or street theatre is, in fact, done indoors and is pretty tedious, but when it bursts out on the pavement of the Royal Mile or Princes Street, it can be magic, especially the old simple things, the white-faced mimes, the conjurers and the apprentice acrobats (so much more exciting when there is a good chance they will fail).

Buskers abound as well as Fringe groups emerging to find an audience and peddle their wares. On the first Sunday, the organization tried to catch up with the movement (like the Polish government) by organizing an "Open Air Free Fringe" in Holyrood Park under the massy Salisbury Crags.

# Problems of keeping an open secret

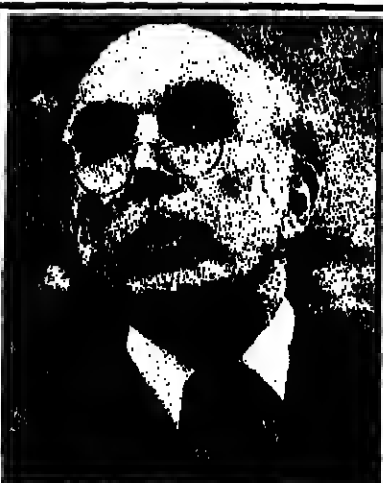
First, I signed the official declaration on form E74 (code 5-74-0); then, my attention was formally drawn to the following "provisions on secrecy": "It is an offence for any official to disclose, orally or in writing, to any unauthorized person any information which has been acquired through his official duties or to which he has access owing to his official position."

But these provisions on secrecy were, I was informed, apply to "non-secret as well as secret information". But, I was reassured, "there is, however, no objection to [an official] repeating information which has already officially been made public."

So, in case I had been worrying about this (and with threats of life imprisonment under the Official Secrets Act, I had) I could, as Barbara Castle's political adviser, repeat the contents of any published DHSS press releases without fear of prosecution. A great relief.

The quotations I have given above, though selective, do fully justify the lunatic Kafkaesque flavour of the rules on official secrecy which, the newspapers tell us, Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robert Armstrong, is now seeking to enforce with ever more blood-curdling threats against a flood of leaks from the official machine.

In 1911, 150 callow printers and owners of bleaching establishments petitioned the House of Commons to have stealing from their premises removed from the list of capital offences. These otherwise hard-faced fellows had not suddenly gone soft with discretion. People were unwilling to give evidence where they were liable to be



Bernard Crick

together with a kite flying exhibition. I cannot vouch for the quality of either, since I was unavoidably delayed at the inaugural press conference of the Scottish Malt Whisky Society (of which I am a shareholder as well as the companion of one of the directors, so I must declare my interest) but it certainly tied up the traffic in the whole of central Edinburgh for three hours.

At the other end of the market from the buskers these days you can simply hire for two nights the Dominion Cinema, Morningide, without let or hindrance from Festival proper or Fringe, if you are George Melly. I doubt if "I'm the Hot Dog Man" or "I've Got the Look But You've Lost the Key" has been heard in Morningide before - since his last visit. But Charlie McNair, Edinburgh's own best jazz man, will play and sing "Nuts" at the Dragonara Hotel (four star) every Sunday night - if you ask him nicely.

So it is all a long time since the only Fringe was at the Traverse Theatre from which for several years in the mid 60s Jim Haynes, an American expatriate of "anti-theatre" staged entire proper and off each other. The hall of the Church of Scotland had been left after grave deliberations to the Festival most proper for a well-vetted and edifying play. The wretched Haynes succeeded in infiltrating into the gallery a naked woman in a wheelchair.

Certainly in those days, the Edinburgh District Council took an excessive interest in "the lone" of the Festival and long tried, like Sisyphus, to empty out the dregs of the Fringe. But by now



Jack Straw

unwilling to convict. As Sir Robert Armstrong angrily broods on the fact that even a classified, confidential letter, seeking action against leaks, has been leaked, he would do well to consider for the commonsense approach of those callow printers. The problem is a simple one. The rules on official secrecy have fallen totally into disrepute; they have lost legitimacy and respect, and have now become quite unenforceable.

No one - not least those with responsibility for enforcing them - believes in them any more. Why should they? For they have been used in positive Britain for a purpose for which they were never intended.

The justification for the Official Secrets Act, when it was pushed through the Commons in a wave of xenophobia in 1911, was national security. National security and the interests of the state are still used for the classification of documents. "Confidential" is given to documents the disclosure of which would be damaging to the national interest, and "Secret" as recall, to those which could gravely damage our national security.

But in the three-and-a-half years in

the elders have long sold the poor churches are in desperate need of a petition to let their halls, indeed the very Kirk itself, demand one supply, the capitalist ethic chips at Protestantism and the incense of most of the offerings to their backdrop has long ceased to be comment.

Some of the Fringe is of high quality. The Assembly Rooms in George Street, which has five venues, and a bar, has become almost an official Fringe. The performers are real professionals: Victor Spinney (one of Joan Littlewood's old boys) did a one man stand, Nola Lee, a mime, did a one woman stand and ariel but she needs new material, the incomparable National Theatre's Brent did *The Messiah* - just to wide-boys and a donkey.

The Little Lyceum tries to do the same, very selective, but with only one stage, people don't wander in on off chance. One of the most popular veterans of the Fringe, the theatre who did the one-man *Lord of the Flies* in 70 minutes, has had disappointing houses this year for his *Mr Hyde* and *Mr Hyde*, despite its local fame.

And there is good music on the Fringe. I heard twice (that's not a criticism) a new Edinburgh chamber group, the Concerto, William Walton's setting of *St Matthew's Passion*, chanted and read by Neil Cunningham and Victor Spinney. The Fringe and the Festival proper feed off each other and have events that sound like the other and they share common venues. The concept "Edinburgh Festival" embraces both. Even if the Festival proper is visibly starved of money, really great opera and theatre companies no longer come) it will be up by its lesser happenings.

So much of it is sustained by the market: the huge numbers who go to this festival holiday of the city, the most beautiful of cities. The Fringe has just resigned because of lack of support from the district council. It is almost as negative and ungrateful as Sturmfloß is to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre: all they can get the Military Tattoo and the opera. Handel's *Fireworks Music* is given for the big events and will double ebb and flow. But no set of officials now kill it. It has got completely out of control for overall comprehension, its sounding and marvellous.

Commercial sponsorship is given for the big events and will double ebb and flow. But no set of officials now kill it. It has got completely out of control for overall comprehension, its sounding and marvellous.

which I saw a mass of Cabinet papers classified "Secret" or above, the location of only a tiny handful of the would have been damaging to national security if they had been leaked. It is not national security which is the real criteria for classification of documents (outside the defence and foreign affairs area), but embarrassment or disfigurement of the government party.

There are, however, two additional reasons. Robert Armstrong, the leaked letter against leaks, gave it, quite separately from the one under the Official Secrets Act, which have duties, expected of any employees in any walk of life, in the confidences acquired in the course of their employment. This is unquestionable as a proposition; but it fails to take account of the special position of the Civil Service, who since the 19th century have been infused with the ethic of serving a public interest higher than the immediate interests of the government of the day.

But perhaps the greatest damage all has been done to the legitimacy of the official secrets laws by ministerial themselves, through the organized deception and hypocrisy of the system. Under this system, no one may ministers provide information, or record information to journalists, or formal "lobby" briefings of journalists are held by ministers - including the Prime Minister - on the understanding that neither the source, the venue, nor the occasion will be disclosed. So far, the public has been deceived, they do occur. But the lobby system means many leaks which are blamed on officials actually come from ministers.

Government cannot operate without sensible laws to protect disclosures of information about real national security and defence. It is time for the government to accept the fact that the present law is not more leaks, not less.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The criteria for an architectural reputation

Sir, - I would like to congratulate Messrs Roxburgh and Arvanitakis for their letters in *The THES* (August 19) on the subject of peer group review and the criteria that should properly apply. As Dr Roxburgh points out, research measured by numbers of publications is meaningless, as a publication can be an article in a refereed journal, a conference report, a book review or a popular article.

In the case of architecture (Mr Arvanitakis's subject) there are no refereed journals, except in historical subjects. Most of the literature is "trade" literature, with the exception of the architectural "glossies", which are picture-magazines with the minimum of text and the maximum of photographs and drawings of projects. Most of the academic journals on architectural history, architectural psychology and architectural education have been started by groups of academics who had difficulty in getting their letters in *The THES* published, and now publish each other. For those pursuing architectural studies which cannot get published, there is always the "occasional paper" self-printed on a photocopying machine.

A third correspondent in the August 19 issue, John Adams, expresses his disquiet at the increasing emphasis being placed on research and publications - particularly when these are only loosely connected to the lecturer's professional expertise. He adds that "it appears that educational establishments are to be judged by, and perhaps, funded on account of, doctors in abstruse subjects."

In the case of architecture schools this is dangerous; as Mr Arvanitakis points out, students attend schools of architecture to train as architects, and the majority of polytechnic lecturers

are practising architects. Higher academic qualifications and a publication record is no index of professional competence or practical experience in an executive subject. Performance in research is not a performance in architecture.

Indeed, Professor A. MacMillan, NAB member, put it very forcefully at a recent Leicester conference: "In most academic departments the higher the qualification obtained, the better qualified the candidate will be in the discipline and the more able to talk for it. The reverse can be the case in architecture - a PhD in architecture may imply an inability to perform as an architect."

Yours faithfully,  
MILES SCOTT,  
38a Cranley Gardens,  
London SW7.

Welsh hostilities  
Sir, - Professor Gordon Leff (Summerhill pupil 1934-1943) is generally to be commended for his succinct overview and friendly analysis of Jonathan Crain's new biography of A. S. Neill (*THES*, July 15).

His review was flawed, however, by his need (in an academic no doubt) to call attention to certain "errors" in Crain's book. Unfortunately, he neglected to apply the canons of his own discipline (history) to his selection of "errors", substituting reliance upon his own limited experience.

Leff castigates Crain (gently to be sure) for, "transposing the fights with the town ginks" from Leiston (where they were only a minor and occasional phenomenon) to Weles where relations were always peaceable. . .

My experience supports Crain. In 1943-1944 there was virtually a state of war between the Welsh (Ffestiniog) locals and the English (Summerhillian) interlopers. I distinctly remember that, for fear of Welsh assaults, evening expeditions to the village fish and chip shop had to be bodyguarded by a couple of our biggest boys - who received free fish and chips for their services. Eventually, after a kid had his head split open during a brick fight, the authorities cracked down on these hostilities.

Yours truly,  
CARLOS KRUYTBOSCH,  
National Science Foundation,  
Washington, DC.

Selling technology  
Sir, - It is not just academics who should be concerned that the Government-funded research on the acceptance of new technology, outlined in Paul Flather's article (August 26), will amount to an exercise in "opinion management". I was a salesman for two years and I am struck by a parallel.

All the "how-to-sell" books suggest that to clinch a sale one must concentrate on a product's benefits to the customer ("positive aspects"), sidestep the faults ("negative aspects") and ignore, if possible, the competition (salesmen, in addition, the really successful salesman must be able to close the sale and leave the customer with the impression not that he has been sold anything but that he has bought by his own choice. These techniques, particularly the latter, are questionable to a commercial context; they are downright undemocratic in the socio-political sphere.

Yours faithfully,  
J. W. WARD,  
6 Trinity Road,  
Bilfeney, Essex.

Short answer  
Sir, - May I take issue with your correspondent who complains that your editorials are too long? (*THES*, September 2). In these days of headline impressions and media sensationalism, it was a pleasure during August to have the assured thinking of the four essays on *The achievement of Robbins* to grapple with.

Yours truly,  
J. H. HIGGINSON,  
12 St. Lawrence Porstal,  
Canterbury,  
Kent.

Letters for publication should arrive by Tuesday morning. They should be as short as possible and written on one side of the paper. The editor reserves the right to cut or amend them if necessary.

Language demand  
Sir, - John Hurt's article "Tongue Tied" (*THES* September 2) makes a cogent point, but Mr Hurt is unduly gloomy when he says that Britons produce only enough graduates in Japanese "to occupy the fingers of one hand, with several fingers to spare". In 1983 there were 10 graduates in Japanese studies from Sheffield University alone; graduates from Cambridge, Oxford and London (the only other universities that offer full degree courses in Japanese) would bring the national total up to about 30.

This is a small number, of course, but it is the result of steady growth over recent years: Mr Hurt's statement probably would have been true 15 years ago.

There is an increasing demand from students for courses in this subject (over 150 applications to this centre for entry in October 1983) and an increasing demand from employers for this kind of expertise. It is to be hoped that current pressures on the universities will not inhibit the growth in this subject that is clearly needed.

Yours faithfully,  
G. H. HEALEY,  
Director,  
Centre of Japanese Studies,  
University of Sheffield.

Commonwealth reports  
Sir, - Twenty-six universities in Nigeria (special report on Commonwealth universities, *THES*, August 12). May I point out that a recent visit should reveal Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, founded over 20 years ago, now with the biggest student enrolment in Ilesha Africa. (If you doubt its existence, check the advert for staff in the *same THES*.)

For your records: Bayero University is in Kano, and the University of Nigeria is sited on two campuses, at Nsukka and Enugu, both a long way from the capital.

Yours sincerely,  
SUSANNAH M. CROW,  
Production editor,  
Institute of Education,  
ABU, Zaria, Nigeria.

Polytechnic funding  
Sir, - One imagines that *The THES* is well able to defend itself against the strictures of John Bevan, but allow me to support your decision to print the funding of the present Government towards higher education as well as known and the issue of student numbers is serious enough in itself. What matters to those of us at the workface in the polytechnics is how we turn to *The THES*, is right now, funding. That and that alone will determine at the end of the day which

of us still has a job. I am sure we are also pondering on numbers of students, but there will be more than enough time to worry about that when we are standing in the dole queue.

If Mr Bevan feels that any issue but funding is at the heart of all our immediate worries then he is very sadly mistaken.

Yours,  
THAD. GREEN,  
Ferry Road,  
Hayling Island,  
Hants.

Select chairmen  
Sir, - In his otherwise informative article on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee (*THES*, August 19) Walter Little made one important mistake.

Select committee chairmen are not "always" held by a member of the Government party. No fewer than seven of the 14 new committees published in 1979 were chaired by Opposition backbenchers (Education Science and Arts; Employment; Environment; Social Services; Transport; Scottish Affairs; Welsh Affairs). In addition, the foreign affairs and treasury and Civil Service sub-committees (both Opposition chairmen).

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN R. EPPER,  
Leeds University.

Union Views on the NAB recommendations  
There are many laudable aspects of local authority education: its responsiveness to community need, imaginative developments to improve access and opportunity, and innovative new ideas in curricular development. Most of all it is controlled by authorities directly elected by and accountable to local population. It is of course far from perfect. However, there is an acknowledgment by most local authorities of a need to expand and improve the service which they offer.

What a tragedy therefore, that the National Advisory Body, rather than argue the case for higher education with a Government hostile to it, has chosen instead willingly to comply with and execute almost every ministerial whim and desire.

The NAB's proposals for individual institutions may be dressed up in the sleek language of rationalization but reading between the euphemisms it is clear to us that they are neither smart, sensible nor concerned with improving education. They are a recipe for short-term catastrophic, and the long-term decline of the public sector of higher education.

We are told also that 10,000 student places are to go. This is an unwelcome figure based on a rather dubious assumption that a demand for higher education will remain constant. If anything, demand is likely to rise significantly, as the duke quene increasingly provides the only alternative to those considering higher education, and the squeeze in the number of university places continues. Thus the effect would be to stomp the doors of opportunity in the faces of qualified young people not to deny them the ability to develop their potential. They will be cheated of the places which their parents have already paid for. Stuck in dead-end jobs or on the dole they will be destined to join the generation which the education service has lost in the 1980s.

The NAB proposals amount to a blatant attack on the arts and social sciences. They seem determined to give priority effect to the technocratic aspirations of the Government, and those who believe our education service should increasingly become the servant of the corporate economy. They plan to cut the number of entrants to humanities by 12 per cent and

to decrease the resources allocated to such courses relative to others. The result will be a distortion of the subject balance in the public sector curriculum and a further degrading of some of the most interesting and challenging areas of study. Moreover, this selective attack on individual subjects will hit women particularly badly, since it is these areas that exhibit the least bias in their participation.

It is not only opportunity which will decline. Inherent in the NAB's plans is an assumed decay in the quality of educational provision in the public sector. A 14 per cent cut in the money spent for students will mean fewer teaching resources, overcrowded classes and less face-to-face contact between tutor and student. The breadth of education will suffer as options within courses disappear and as the potential for innovation in the curriculum and teaching methods evaporates. The Government seems determined to widen further the binary divide and create a second-class sector of higher education.

We have been told that the choice is between numbers and standards. There is however, a third choice for the Government to review and change its policy towards higher education. The NAB proposals illustrate one thing above all else, that it is not possible to provide the type of higher education system the people of this country want and need with the amount of money the Government is prepared to spend. It must now be clear that the only way to protect the quality of and opportunity for higher education is to inject more money into the "pool". We hope that Keith Joseph shares this view and that he is as prepared to fight as hard for his role as it appears his Cabinet colleagues are for theirs.

Tommy Sheppard  
The author is vice president (education) of the National Union of Students.

Now give us the money  
natfhe  
The National Advisory Body's secretariat has made its recommendations and the colleges and local authorities are now trying to grapple with these. The pattern is confused and reactions vary widely not surprisingly when the recommendations relate to more than 200 colleges and include the closure or merger of up to half a dozen and in some instances, especially in the polytechnics, increased student numbers with reduced resources.

Two things, however, emerge with great clarity. One of these is a pointer for the Government and the other for the NAB itself.

As for the Government it is concerned. It is quite clear that it will have to make more money available to the public sector if we are not to be faced with a totally unacceptable level of rejection of qualified students because there are no places for them in higher education. Equally important, more money will have to be provided to ensure that, for those students who are lucky enough to get a place, the standard of their education does not fall to an unacceptably low level.

The public sector has done its very best to meet the demand from students for places. This policy has been followed despite aggressive and often extremely ill-informed criticism both from within the sector and without. It has been dictated partly at least, by a genuine desire to respond to the demands of young people desperate to improve their chances in the job lottery.

However, there is a limit to the numbers with which even the most conscientious institution can cope and this limit was clearly signalled by the colleges in their response to the NAB. What has happened is that many institutions, especially polytechnics, have been allocated more students than they bid for, while at the same time suffering reductions in their provision.

Yours faithfully,  
DR CHAM TAO SOON,  
President,  
Nanyang Technological Institute,  
Singapore.

As for the NAB it is serious about planning public sector education, then policy must dictate resource allocation, not vice versa and if the system which is used at present does not achieve that, then a different system must be found and fast.

The work of the Technical and Data Group is no doubt a miracle of statistical achievement. Unfortunately the outcome of this work is quite incomprehensible to people in institutions and local authorities who have to live with the results. Too often the allocations appear to be completely irrational and the methodology is so complex that even those who have a good understanding of financial matters become completely bemused.

This is simply not good enough and if the NAB's sophisticated formulae are incapable of producing a more rational distribution then it should be scrapped and the NAB should try using instead the judgment and common sense of the members of the board and committees. It is difficult to see how they could do worse.

Jean Bocock  
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# A recipe for disaster

There are many laudable aspects of local authority education: its responsiveness to community need, imaginative developments to improve access and opportunity, and innovative new ideas in curricular development. Most of all it is controlled by authorities directly elected by and accountable to local population. It is of course far from perfect. However, there is an acknowledgment by most local authorities of a need to expand and improve the service which they offer.

What a tragedy therefore, that the National Advisory Body, rather than argue the case for higher education with a Government hostile to it, has chosen instead willingly to comply with and execute almost every ministerial whim and desire.

The NAB's proposals for individual institutions may be dressed up in the sleek language of rationalization but reading between the euphemisms it is clear to us that they are neither smart, sensible nor concerned with improving education. They are a recipe for short-term catastrophic, and the long-term decline of the public sector of higher education.

We are told also that 10,000 student places are to go. This is an unwelcome figure based on a rather dubious assumption that a demand for higher education will remain constant. If anything, demand is likely to rise significantly, as the duke quene increasingly provides the only alternative to those considering higher education, and the squeeze in the number of university places continues. Thus the effect would be to stomp the doors of opportunity in the faces of qualified young people not to deny them the ability to develop their potential. They will be cheated of the places which their parents have already paid for. Stuck in dead-end jobs or on the dole they will be destined to join the generation which the education service has lost in the 1980s.

The NAB proposals amount to a blatant attack on the arts and social sciences. They seem determined to give priority effect to the technocratic aspirations of the Government, and those who believe our education service should increasingly become the servant of the corporate economy. They plan to cut the number of entrants to humanities by 12 per cent and

to decrease the resources allocated to such courses relative to others. The result will be a distortion of the subject balance in the public sector curriculum and a further degrading of some of the most interesting and challenging areas of study. Moreover, this selective attack on individual subjects will hit women particularly badly, since it is these areas that exhibit the least bias in their participation.

It is not only opportunity which will decline. Inherent in the NAB's plans is an assumed decay in the quality of educational provision in the public sector. A 14 per cent cut in the money spent for students will mean fewer teaching resources, overcrowded classes and less face-to-face contact between tutor and student. The breadth of education will suffer as options within courses disappear and as the potential for innovation in the curriculum and teaching methods evaporates. The Government seems determined to widen further the binary divide and create a second-class sector of higher education.

We have been told that the choice is between numbers and standards. There is however, a third choice for the Government to review and change its policy towards higher education. The NAB proposals illustrate one thing above all else, that it is not possible to provide the type of higher education system the people of this country want and need with the amount of money the Government is prepared to spend. It must now be clear that the only way to protect the quality of and opportunity for higher education is to inject more money into the "pool". We hope that Keith Joseph shares this view and that he is as prepared to fight as hard for his role as it appears his Cabinet colleagues are for theirs.

Tommy Sheppard  
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